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DECEMBER 2012

knitting Yarns



DECEMBER 12: WORK OF OUR HANDS FASHION SHOW

We've worked all year, and it's finally here—what better way to end the year than with a party? The Work of our Hands Fashion Show is always the highlight of the DKC season. It's a time to come together and celebrate ourselves, our craft and our guild with music, fashion, friendship and food! See what others have been working on all year long. A chance to strut your stuff and show off your finished objects, large and small. **As always, the December meeting is free to everyone**, so it's a great opportunity to introduce newcomers to the guild. Bring your whole family! The meeting will culminate with the consumption of festive snacks and beverages.

If you'd like to display a small item on a table rather than modeling it, please attach a tag and include the following information:

- Knitter's name
- Pattern and pattern source
- Yarn used
- Brief details you would like to share

COMING UP IN JANUARY

Janelle Martin is a knitter, knitwear designer, blogger and book reviewer based in Waterloo. Janelle's patterns

are available on Ravelry, Patternfish and her own blog, Ecclectic Closet. We are so lucky to have Janelle back with us this year to help us continue to unravel Ravelry. Her depth of knowledge of this powerful knitter's resource is legendary, and she has the innate ability to make it all seem easy for even the most digitally challenged among us. This meeting is a must-see for those who are new to Ravelry and "power users" alike.

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

Glenna C is a well-known Toronto-area knitwear designer, blogger and teacher. You can catch her innovative and creative workshops at many local yarn stores in Southern Ontario and beyond. Check out her schedule and her interesting and informative blog, *Knitting to Stay Sane*. Her patterns can be found on Ravelry and Patternfish, as well as other sources.

Glenna will be sharing with us her thoughts on knitting in the information age.



Fashion Show 2011

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, December 12, 2012
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
Wednesday, February 20, 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

Free to all at the December meeting!

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

110 knitters (including two newbies) were present for the November meeting. Many Clapotis shawls and Lanesplitter skirts were seen as part of our Knitty celebration.

Announcements

On the fundraising front, several ideas have been proposed. One idea that seemed particularly sympatico with the ideals of the guild is donating to **Spun Studio**, which is affiliated with the Sistering women's shelter. Their motto is "Helping women, one stitch at a time." We can pitch in with monetary donations from our monthly raffle, as well as donations of needles, yarn and other craft supplies. Spun Studio teaches fashion design, marketing and business management to homeless and marginalized women, helping them to gain the skills they need to produce quality retail items. This is right up the DKC's alley, and the proposal was met with enthusiastic approval.

The guild is currently accepting proposals for **Frolic workshops**—please contact treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca by December 15 if you'd like to be an instructor at this high-profile event.

We continue to accept donations for our **Knitting for a Cure** initiative. Drop off your scarves, caps, shawls and yarn at our monthly meetings. You can also pick up tags to apply to your donated garment so the recipient will know how to care for it. If you have any **Bear Pals** (finished or unfinished), they can be dropped off too.

Show and Tell

Trish Denhoed knit a pullover for her son who is currently living and teaching in Japan. He needed something warm, but not bulky. Trish turned out a stunning grey "Beau" sweater from Rowan Vintage Knits with stitches so fine it looked store bought (only better, of course). She used Cascade Heritage Silk, giving the sweater a luxurious hand. Trish also showed a tiny white baby sweater, her first top-down attempt. The pattern is called "Sunnyside Cardigan" and is a free download on Ravelry.

Gloria Easton showed two "stash-buster" cowls, one red and one a white Mobius with a touch of "bling" in the yarn. She

says cowls are great because you can just knit and knit until you're tired of it, then declare the project finished.

Kim Hume has adopted a huge unfinished WIP that was bound for Goodwill until she rescued it—a crochet lace tablecloth with over 100 lacy shapes that have already been completed. Finishing it and putting it together will truly be a labour of love. A heartwarming crafting story.

Addie Sand knit an amazing TARDIS lace shawl in dark blue for a big Doctor Who fan. The recipient is going to be thrilled!

Marie Houghton made a Beatnik cabled pullover by Nora Gaughan. She made no modifications and used the exact yarn recommended in the pattern (even the same colour). You can't argue with success—it looked great, and fit perfectly.

Monika Hepner showed a Clapotis she made with nine skeins of Noro Silk Garden. Fun fact: Amy says that most people wear the Clapotis incorrectly—it should be worn purl side out so the dropped stitch ripples are displayed to full effect (*clapotis* means "ripple" in French).

Julia Bryant came up to briefly mention that her bedspread from last month's Show and Tell took 17 *months*, not 17 years. We regret the error. We should have known you crochet faster than that, Julia.

Raffle

A Brown Sheep sweater kit was won by Flo Flory.

A Soak wristlet/nail polish kit was won by Paula Wojcik.

A Tom Bihn "swift" knitting bag from Knitty was won by Elizabeth Hilton.

Guest Speaker

AMY SINGER

Do you remember what you were doing in 2002? Amy (and the audience) can scarcely believe 10 years have passed since the beginning of Knitty. She remembers all too well how nervous she was to get up at the DKC meeting (then held at Bloor St. United Church) and announce that she was starting an online knitting magazine. How did it all come together?

Amy worked for 20 years as a proofreader

at an advertising agency. She started Knitty because she was absolutely miserable at her job. She taught herself HTML and registered the domain.

The internet has changed quite a bit since 2002, but the way Knitty is produced hasn't changed much at all. Designers have a submission deadline that is three months before the next issue's release date. Business partner Jillian and Amy go through a short list and choose the final lineup from all the submissions. Socks and accessories go to Kate Atherley for technical editing, and all other patterns go to the editing team. The edited patterns are turned into beautiful pages, with photo editing and retouching (primarily zits and baby snoot) being taken care of by Amy. Ads are placed (and ads keep it free! Yay, ads!) and finally the issue goes live. The deadline is slightly flexible because Amy just refuses to do that to herself. Her site, her rules.

Over the years, Knitty has discovered many big-name knitwear designers. Kristi Porter, Jillian Moreno, Amy Swenson, Kate Gilbert and even Stephanie-Pearl McPhee had their first patterns published on Knitty, among many, many others.

The audience had several questions:

How can we support Knitty? Amy had several suggestions: click on ads, and consider buying from a knitty advertiser. Tell new knitters (and new yarn stores) about Knitty. You can also show support for the designers by buying some of their other patterns via their own sites or blogs. And of course, Knitty has a mighty neat gift shop as well (knittyshop.com).

How do you get published on Knitty?

Amy says the number one error new designers make is failing to read the submission guidelines. If you follow them to the letter, you'll already be ahead of the pack. It's also important to have a pattern that's not too similar to the others that have already been published.

What's next for Knitty? Amy can't tell—but she really, really wants to. It's big, and it's good, and she's been working on it for a while. Just trust her—it'll be great.

CELEBRATING OUR OWN

The latest issue of Twist Collective went live last Wednesday night at approximately 10 p.m. Fiona Ellis's pattern 'Granville', along with local designer Glenna C's 'Burrard' got such a huge response on Ravelry that they hit the #1 and the #2 spots on "What's Hot" by mid-morning Thursday, and each pattern had over 1000 hearts by Friday evening. Very exciting!

These patterns feature lots of Canadian content—both patterns were named after places and buildings in Vancouver, and Fiona's is

worked in Sweet Georgia Yarn—also from Vancouver! That's twice in one month that one of Fiona's patterns have taken top spot on Ravelry. Here's the link to Granville:

www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/granville-3

Another feather in Fiona's cap is that her Soakboxes (which are a collaborative project by Soak wash, Lorna's Laces and Fiona) made Canadian Living magazine's holiday gift guide. Nicely done!

PUCKS n' PURLS 2013

Date: February 9, 2013

Location: Ricoh Coliseum, Exhibition Place

Marlies Alley: 1:30 pm

Gates Open: 2:00 pm

Game Time: 3:00 pm

Seating: Behind Marlies bench (Sections 100/101)

Price: \$21

Now is the time to get your tickets for this family fun event - the 2nd annual Pucks N' Purls. Tickets will be on sale at the DKC meetings in December and January or online at www.marlies.ca/PucksNPurls using the promotional code pucksnpurls. At \$21, the tickets are a great value. Tickets (which are right behind the Marlies bench at centre ice) have a face value of \$33, and on game day the price rises to \$37. At the Pucks N' Purls price, it's actually affordable to take your family to a professional hockey game.

We implore you to get your tickets early! Last year we ran out of tickets two weeks before the game. The Marlies organizers scrambled to get us more seats—some even in the end zone. More seats have been set aside for us this year, but as we get closer to game date, depending on sales, we will have to give up some unsold seats. There is a lot of pressure on Marlies tickets this year; some games have been sold out. There are a couple of reasons. First, the Marlies are an excellent AHL hockey team, making it to the Calder Cup last year. So the games are exciting to watch. Second, the NHL is in lockout so they are the only professional hockey game in town.

There will be a free skate on Marlies ice after the game again this year! This is an exclusive treat for 250 Pucks N' Purls ticket holders. You don't want to miss it. It will be a lifetime memory for all the hockey-crazed fans among your family and friends.

Last year we had so much fun. The kids played foosball in Marlies Alley before the game while their parents had a beer and checked out their luck at the prize table in the Concourse. There were so many prizes, 42 in all, donated by knitting distributors, yarn companies and local yarn stores. There was everything from knitting notions, to knitting books, to bags, to skeins of hand-dyed yarns, to a set of Addi Clicks. Tammy, Sam and Lacey, who volunteered at the prize table, had such a tough time giving some of the prizes away. Kim McBrien, owner of Indigodragonfly had

died a special colourway that brought a smile to everyone's face: "Just one Stanley Cup in my lifetime, is that too much to ask?" - in blue, white and failure. The support from the knitting community was so wonderfully generous. We could not have done this without them.

This year we are planning lots of prizes for Pucks N' Purls ticket holders. But we will be broadening the prize selection to include hockey and other non-knitting prizes, as well as the types of knitting prizes we had last year. This is a family fun event, so let's have prizes that make everyone in the family happy. And just so you know, Indigodragonfly is planning another special colourway with a cheeky name.

At Pucks N' Purls last year, Denise presented Duke the Dog, the Marlies Mascot, with a scarf in Marlies blue and white that she had designed and knit herself—the intarsia logo was a masterpiece. At the second intermission, after a Jumbotron video of Wanietta and Linda verbally challenging each other to a match, they competed in the Fastest Knitter Face-Off filmed in the Rogers Red Z one. Wanietta took home the trophy, with Linda calling for a rematch in 2013. The Marlies staff were so pumped about this event. The guys could not believe that knitting could be so competitive! Then Duke and his dancers tossed some yarn. After a thrilling game finish (another Marlies win) it was onto the ice for a fabulous free skate.

Get your tickets now! The organizers are working to make Pucks N' Purls 2013 the best yet!



Decorative Triple Decrease, three stitches from the edge
This stitch came from a Phildar pattern book published in the late 70's. Sample is done as if it were a raglan sleeve sweater, done in the round.

At the right edge:
K3, slip the next 3 stitches onto a cable needle, and place behind work.

Knit 1st stitch from needle together with 1st stitch on cable needle

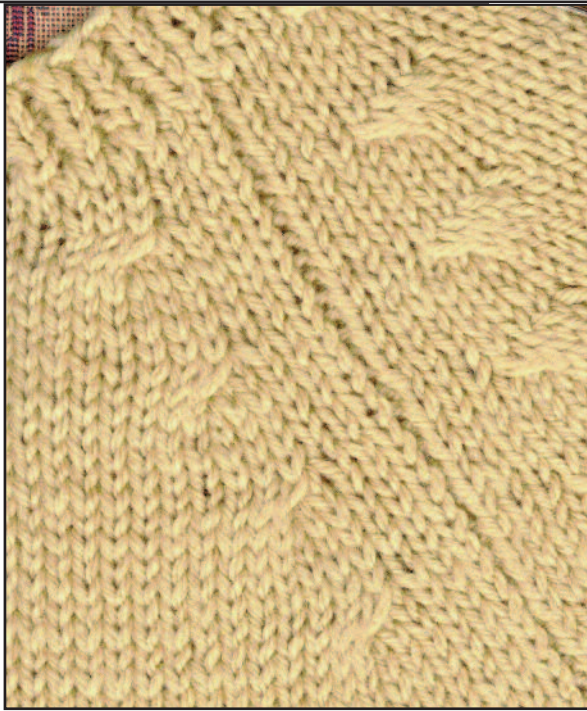
Knit 2nd stitch from needle together with 2nd stitch on cable needle

Knit 3rd stitch from needle together with 3rd stitch on cable needle

At the left edge:
Work to last 9 stitches of row. Slip 3 stitches to a cable needle and place in front of work.

Knit 1st stitch from cable needle together with 1st stitch on needle
Knit 2nd stitch from cable needle together with 2nd stitch on needle
Knit 3rd stitch from cable needle together with 3rd stitch on needle.

End with knit 3.



KNITTER'S FROLIC 2013

Mark your calendars for April 27-28th...the 2013 Knitter's Frolic. Ann Budd, author of several books including most recently, *Knitter's Handy Book of Top Down Sweaters* will join us for the weekend. Keep watching our

website for the full workshop schedule to be released in January. The Saturday Vendor's

Marketplace is almost full. Vendors are coming from British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, Michigan and all over Ontario. Your Frolic Committee is busy working to make this the best Frolic ever.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TMC Holiday Sale

Tucked away on the second floor of the Textile Museum of Canada, the Museum Shop is a marketplace of both new and traditional textiles from around the world. The shelves house original works by over 50 Canadian artisans. From December 1-24, the TMC is holding its annual Holiday Sale. Museum members receive 20% off. 55 Centre Ave., Toronto.

Festive Quick Gifts Classes

The Purple Purl will be dedicating the 5 Wednesday evenings leading up to Christmas to gift-making project classes with instructors at the ready for both Knit and Crochet questions. Space is limited, so best sign up for one, some or all of these session dates as soon as you can. Each class is \$15. Visit thepurplepurl.com for workshop and contact info.

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