

Knitting yarns

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April 16: Sally Melville



Join us as we welcome back knitting superstar and author Sally Melville. Sally will speak about “Why We Do What We Do”— an exploration of what knitting (and any handwork) does for the soul. It makes us happy, promotes good mental health, and even contributes to our economic recovery.

Sally helps us to understand why we love to do what we do, and why we should keep doing it!

Temporary Location Change

Great news! Innis Hall is being renovated. This means better seats, better lighting and a nicer meeting space in general. However, it also means the guild is going to have to meet somewhere else for a while.

Our April meeting will take place directly across the street from Innis Hall... it couldn't be more convenient. We will meet in the **Claude T. Bissell Building**, 140 St. George Street, just south of Innis Hall.

There will be plenty of signs and volunteers on hand to make sure everyone gets to the right place. We've just confirmed that the April, May and June meetings will all take place at the same location.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Location

Temporary Location: Claude T Bissell Bldg.
140 St. George St.
(SW 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

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 March Meeting *by Heather Brady*



It was a dark and stormy night, but a full house was on hand to hear Fiona Ellis at the March meeting.

Announcements

Hey, did you know the Frolic is coming up? We're looking for volunteers.

A new yarn store called LadeeBee Knits is opening in the west end on April 5– it will feature knitting, crocheting, beading, etc.

Some cool knitters' travel tours are coming up: Viking Route Cruise, Scottish Skeins & Skerries Tour, and Irish Treasures. Visit joycejamestours.com for details.

Raffle

Indigodragonfly sock yarn was won by Judi Hanninen. Terri Schipper won the book *Simple Knits with a Twist*. Joan Lockhart-Grace won Indigodragonfly laceweight. Then three prizes donated by Fiona: *Inspired Fair Isle Knits* was won by Holly Yip. An "Elvis Paisley" Soak Box was won by Blanche Douglas. A Needle Pulling Thread magazine was won by Gilda G, and a Twist Collective gift certificate was won by Elsa Louise May.

Show & Tell

Denise wore a Box Sweet pullover she knit from a Shelridge Farms kit, featuring striking modular chevrons, designed by Anne Feitelson and Candace Eisner Strick.

Cherilyn showed two scarves that are very hot right now: Bactus and

Hitchhiker. There are over 9,000 finished Bactus on Ravelry, and 16,000+ finished Hitchhikers. They are popular for a reason! Beautiful work.

Mary Pat showed a mobius cowl from the handspun of your humble newsletter editor, in shades of orange, pink and yellow.

Kim showed a Pearls cardigan, crocheted with Louet wet spun linen. She started it three times before she was satisfied (a typical Goldilocks situation: too hot, too cold, just right).

Judi showed a Peplum Cardigan from Vogue Fall 2009 in Filatura di Crossa, with several modifications—she got rid of the bell sleeves and narrowed the collar. Judi reports that it's nice and warm, and she's worn it nearly every day this winter, for obvious reasons!

Sydney showed two scarves: first, a striking Colour Affection in blue, grey and yellow. Sydney admits that she hated knitting it until she got to the third colour. The second scarf was Carson by Romi Hill: A three-colour version in red, taupe and cream. Both elicited gasps of admiration from the audience.

Guest Speaker

Fiona Ellis: Pondering Paisley
Fiona's presentation gave the audience a whole new perspective on the humble motif that has been lurking around on pyjamas, ties and bandanas for many years.

Its origins lie in Persia, in the simplified shape of a tree with roots. It gradually evolved into the highly stylized tadpole shape we are familiar with today. The Persian cashmere *shal* adorned with these patterns was worn exclusively by men. However, by the 18th century the decorated shawls found favour with the women of European aristocracy, brought back as gifts by men working for the East India Co. and Napoleon's armies in Egypt.

With the invention of the Jacquard loom, the complex patterns were being woven domestically by the 1800s. Because of the prominence of Paisley, Scotland in the weaving industry, the town's name soon became synonymous with the motif itself.

Shawls fell out of favour in the late 1800s, because nothing should cover the newly-popular bustle.

The paisley pattern didn't surface again until the 1960s and 70s on psychedelic prints, because of a renewed interest in all things Eastern.

A big paisley trend has not been seen since, though it has become a staple as a print for loungewear and ties. Fiona decided it was time to translate the paisley to knitting, with beautiful results.

We'd like to thank Fiona for this fascinating bit of fashion history. Her "Paisley" pullover pattern can be found on Twist Collective.



TORONTO KNITTER'S

frollic



April 26-27, 2014

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
The fibre event of the year!

Frollic 2014: Last Minute Details!

Frollic Marketplace

SATURDAY ONLY, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Admission: \$5.00 (exact change appreciated). Early birds will receive a free brown DKC shopping bag while supplies last.

A wonderful selection of knitterly items awaits you at this year's marketplace. Vendors will join us from British Columbia, Alberta, Michigan, New York State and Ontario. Small Etsy and online shops will feature their hand-dyed yarn, buttons, beads, stitch markers, project bags and more. Several stores will offer knitting, crochet and spinning supplies, books and patterns.

Curious about the vendors? Need a floorplan? Need directions?
All are available [at the DKC website](#).

Frollic Café

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Light food and beverages will be available. Take a break with a friend and enjoy a snack or light lunch. Sandwiches, muffins, pastries, fresh fruit and veggies, tea, coffee and water will be on the menu. Our new café operators are Carole and Leigh Adams of Northern Custom Designs.

Information Booth

Volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions about the Frollic or the Downtown Knit Collective. Our popular Frollic

project bags and tote bags may also be purchased at this booth.

Relay for Life Fund Raising

This is 10th year of the Downtown Knit Collective's Relay Team participation in the Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life. Help us raise funds to fight cancer!

Relay for Life Table

Once again we have second-hand craft magazines and books for sale. Drop by and snag a treasure. Clearing out old knitting, crochet, spinning and weaving magazines and books? Recycle them by donating them to our sale. e-mail dkcevents@hotmail.ca. Team members will be available to answer your questions. Interested in joining our Relay team? Let us know.

Candace Eisner Strick Book Signing

Information Booth: 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Do you own one of Candace's books? This is your opportunity to meet Candace and have her sign your book for a small donation to the Relay for Life. Candace's books may also be purchased at Needle Arts Book Shop (booth #1 in Kobayashi Hall). Marsha has very generously offered to donate 10% on these book sales to Relay for Life.

Dr. Knit Sessions

Knitting ills and ailments diagnosed and cured! Sit down with Dr. Knit from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. and discuss your questions one-on-one, \$5 per 15-minute session (all proceeds to

Relay for Life).

Yarn Winding Station

Bought a gorgeous skein of yarn and need it wound? Bring it to the Yarn Winding Station in the front hall and have it turned into a ball before your eyes. All proceeds are donated to Relay for Life.

Raffle

- Exciting raffle prizes are arriving daily to join those prizes donated by our vendors.
- Save time: Bring printed labels with your name, telephone number and email address.
- Limit: 2 prizes per customer.

Prizes not picked up at the Frollic may be picked up at the Downtown Knit Collective meetings on May 21st or June 18th. Prize winners will be notified following the Frollic weekend. We do not mail your prize to you.

Frollic Tips

- Bring cash *and* your credit cards. There is no ATM on site. Note that a number of vendors will only accept cash.
- Wear comfortable shoes– you may make several trips through the marketplace. Take a break at our Café and recharge.

For breaking news on the Frollic, keep an eye on the Toronto Knitter's Frollic forum on [Ravelry](#), Knitter's Frollic on [Facebook](#) and Knitter's Frollic on the [DKC website](#). See you there!

★ please note that the Gardiner Expressway will be closed on Frollic weekend ★

Stitch of the Month *by Diane Martin*

Snowdrop Lace

Multiple of 8 plus 5

Row 1 (right side): K1, *yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yo, k5; rep from * to last 4 sts, yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yo, k1.

Row 2 and every even row: Purl.

Row 3: Repeat Row 1.

Row 5: K4, *yo, sl 1, k1, pssso, k1, k2tog, k3; rep from * to last st, k1.

Row 7: K1, *yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yo, k1; rep from * to end.

Row 8: Rep row 2.

Repeat these 8 rows.

Source: February 2 stitch from 365 Knitting Stitches a Year Perpetual Calendar, 2002 Martindale & Company.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Fibre Arts Festival

Peterborough Handweavers and Spinners Guild presents the fourth annual Fibre Arts Festival, Saturday, April 5, 2014, 10am - 3pm in the lower level of the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street. Admission \$2, children under 10 are free.

Demonstrations and displays will be presented by local guilds and fibre artists, including basketry, bobbin lace, caning, cording, crocheting, embroidery, felting, knitting, millinery, paper making, quilting, rug hooking, silk painting, spinning, tating and weaving.

16th Annual Knitter's Frolic

The Frolic is now just a few weeks away! It's the weekend of April 26-27. As always, the event will feature workshops, food, fibre and fun. Our keynote instructor this year will be author and knitwear designer **Candace Eisner Strick**.

Frolic Volunteers Needed!

The Frolic needs someone who would be willing to help supervise the Yarn Winding Station with Nora Galsi. You would need to commit to the full day, but having two supervisors on the station allows for each volunteer to have time away to shop, eat, rest, or take a class.

In addition, we still have volunteer openings for the following stations:

Line Marshalls	8:00-10:00
Vendor Hospitality Suite	3:30-4:30
Yarn Winding	11:30-1:30 3:30-5:00
Raffle Prize Table	8:30-10:30 10:30-12:30 12:30-2:30
Frolic Café	11:00-1:00 1:00-3:00 3:00-5:00



If you are able to help out, please send an email to frolicvolunteer@gmail.com. Volunteers get free admission and access to the Hospitality Suite.

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