

VOLUME 17 · ISSUE 10  
JUNE 2013knitting  
Yarns

## JUNE 19: LARA VEERASAMMY

Lara Veerasammy is passionate about crochet and cross-stitching. She has been crocheting for over 30 years. Her first project, under her mother's tutelage, was a yellow daisy made with cotton thread. Many a childhood afternoon was spent with both mom and "grand" (next to her rocker) with hooks and crochet cotton.

Lara uses the most luxurious yarns to create beautiful garments. Her sense of colour, and the thought she puts in every project, prove that the division between craft and artform is a very fine line indeed. For example, Lara designed and crocheted her own wedding veil, a gorgeous creation in shimmering crimson and gold silk, featuring paisley, floral and peacock motifs.

At our June meeting, Lara will share some of the beautiful projects she designed herself, talking about the process of bringing an idea from concept to creation.



## THIS SUMMER AT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

ANCESTRY AND ARTISTRY: TEXTILES FROM GUATEMALA  
Guatemala is well known for the richness of its indigenous Maya culture, and the Museum has examples of highly elaborate clothing and accessories from a variety of communities throughout the region. They will be displayed alongside material from international museum collections and contemporary artwork by Guatemalan artists.

*Maya traje*, the distinctive traditional dress of the highland Maya, is the primary visual expression of Maya identity in Guatemala today. Throughout the 20th century and into the present, Maya clothing has gradually changed, and today handmade traditional styles of dress for everyday, festive and ceremonial occasions exist alongside modern styles made with commercial cloth and machine embroidery. The vibrantly coloured weavings offer unique insights into the dynamics reflected in everyday life.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Wednesday, October 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](http://www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html)

Approximately 85 members and two newcomers came out to spend a warm spring evening with Robin Hunter and the rest of the guild. An election for the position of Secretary was held, and votes were counted during the meeting.

### Announcements

We now have a full slate for the 2013/2014 executive. There was only one nomination for each position, with the exception of the Secretary, so we are pleased to announce that all positions have been acclaimed. Special thanks to Trish, Cristina and Edna for all their hard work over the last few years.

Kerry Fast and Debra Rowland both came up and gave three-minute statements, and then the ballots were collected and counted. Just before Robin Hunter came up to speak, it was announced that Kerry is our new secretary. Welcome to the team, Kerry!

A bus tour is being organized again this year to transport approximately 50 happy knitters to Rhinebeck this October. With several hundred vendors, it's one of the biggest fibre festivals in North America. There will be an email blast closer to the date once the details have been finalized. It was a lot of fun last year!

### Raffle

Three people each won two skeins of New England Shetland sock weight yarn: Jackie McKenzie, Gloria Williams and first-timer Reney Gitain. A bag full of goodies from Robin Hunter was won by Joyce Stirling.

### Show & Tell

Mariela Hewetson created a chocolate brown capelet by Debbie Bliss featuring sideways cables and a turtleneck. She says it's warm as toast!

Cristina Simionovici became infatuated with brioche at the YarnOver SleepOver, and hasn't been able to stop. She showed a Rodekool scarf (pattern free on Knitty) and some matching wrist warmers.

Vivian Goffart showed some toe-up socks with Cat Bordhi's new 'sweet tomato' heels. She says it's sort of like a short row, but you knit three wedges and suddenly the smoothest heel you've ever seen

appears. Vivian urges all sock fans to give it a try!

### Celebrating Our Own

Congratulations to Debra Rowland for 'Square Cardi', her entry in the Templeton Square contest run through Knitty by Franklin Habit. The challenge was to create something using the counterpane square Franklin translated from a Victorian-era pattern book, *Weldon's Practical Knitter*. Debra's take on the pattern was both innovative and beautiful.

### Guest Speaker

Robin Hunter is living the dream! She spoke to the guild about her experiences with pursuing a career as a full-time knitwear designer. For many years she worked at Bell, but it wasn't really what her heart desired, so she began mapping out her escape plan. Robin's idea of having fun is making stuff, so she started taking courses in sewing, pattern drafting, knitting, and a variety of other topics. She did lots of workshops and met lots of great people, knitting steadily the entire time. Soon enough, she hardly owned anything store bought—she made almost her entire wardrobe. When Bell started getting rid of 'older' staffers and handing out retirement packages, Robin jumped at the chance. She was only 48 at the time, so it was way ahead of her schedule. 'Someday...' became 'Now!'

Robin says one of the biggest surprises she got from this career change is discovering that there isn't as much knitting involved as she thought. Whether interviewing designers for her blog (over 150 so far) or preparing a lecture, which takes about three weeks to put together, she's discovered that her job is mostly writing.

Robin strongly opposes the popular career advice, "do what you love and the money will follow." It's a romantic approach and makes for a great story, but very little else! Even the people who advised her to do that never actually tried it themselves. Most people who make a dramatic change have their own financial systems in place and do plenty of testing of the waters. They work really hard while also holding down more traditional jobs. Sally Melville is a great example—she worked while slowly building up her reputation as a

designer and teacher.

We assume there's a direct path to our dream jobs, but that really only applies to professionals with specific schooling, like doctors and lawyers. You have to critically and honestly analyze your own values, and decide what will make an acceptable lifestyle for you. Most of the designers Robin has interviewed say they did not have 'lots of money' as a career goal—they all refer to living modestly. It seems very few people end up where they plan to be—for example, Robin was a psychology student, and designer Kate Atherley was a mathematician who ended up in knitwear design completely by accident.

Robin talked about some of her biggest challenges. She finds working from home one of the most difficult—spending hours alone indoors gives her cabin fever. She frequently schedules lunch and coffee dates with friends to get herself out of the house. Robin also found it difficult to invest in expensive equipment (mannequins, computers, cameras) before her business was actually making money.

Robin also finds marketing very difficult in this industry dominated by women. Many of us unfortunately view self-promotion as being in bad taste, and our craft has trouble enough with not being taken seriously. There is often an expectation that designers should give their patterns away. The Yarn Harlot once pointed out that though knitters will spend ridiculous amounts on yarn, they are often reluctant to shell out \$5 on a pattern. Robin has had plenty of experience with people who want her to work for free (often suggesting that the "exposure" would be adequate compensation).

Three years after taking the plunge, Robin tried to answer the question: is she successful? It depends on your definition. She does make a profit, but only if she doesn't include her own salary in the calculations. However, she has seen increases in all areas, so things are looking up. Robin is able to pay Mary Pat as her assistant, and has no debt (a pretty big deal in itself). She finished by quoting Robert J. Collier: "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." Just like knitting.

Team members Carole Adams, Dawn Juruc, Denise Powell, Pam McNaughton, Wannietta Kirkpatrick, Andrea Eves, Donna Lyons, Helen Pagiatakis and Joan Kass are busy preparing for this year's Relay, overnight June 14-15.

We have raised \$\$ by selling roving at various guilds, participating in craft shows

and receiving much-appreciated donations. Thank you to those of you who have already sponsored us.

If you would like to make a donation, please do so at the following link [tinyurl.com/dkc2013](http://tinyurl.com/dkc2013) or contact me at [events@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:events@downtownknitcollective.ca).

We welcome any of you to come by and knit with the team for a while at the Relay. We will be located in Sunnybrook Park (Leslie and Eglinton). Just follow the Relay signs when you enter the park. You can't miss our location at the Relay site... we will be the gals wearing headlamps and knitting at the lantern-lit tent.

# SUMMER OF KNITTING

*Have you given any thought to what you might do with yourself over the summer without guild meetings? Don't panic—there's a whole world of yarn out there to discover, in locations both near and far!*

## JUNE

### 21-28: Fibre Week

Olds College, AB

This week-long celebration features dozens of workshops and master classes, shopping, auctions, a pub night, juried fashion show and live music.

### 26-July 2: Tour of Iceland with Amy Singer

Discover breathtaking scenery and the joys of the ukulele under the midnight sun while learning about alternative fibres with Amy.

[knittingiceland.is](http://knittingiceland.is)

### 28-29: Woolfest

Cockermouth, Cumbria, UK

The event is a celebration of creativity and craftsmanship. It attracts about 5,000 visitors each year.

[www.woolfest.co.uk](http://www.woolfest.co.uk)

## JULY

### 6-13: Alaska Inside Passage Knitting Cruise

Sailing from Vancouver, this tour offers workshops as well as peak viewing of glaciers, whales and wildflowers.

[www.craftcruises.com](http://www.craftcruises.com)

### 12-21: Great Northern Arts Festival

Inuvik, NT

Local visitors and world travellers alike appreciate the chance to see such a variety and range of talents in this exotic far north location. Workshop topics range from fabric dyeing to sled making.

[www.gnaf.org](http://www.gnaf.org)

### Every weekend in July: Knitting Camp

Marshfield, WI

2013 marks the 40th year since Elizabeth Zimmermann began her weekend workshops that evolved into Knitting Camp, carried on by her daughter Meg. [www.schoolhousepress.com/camp.htm](http://www.schoolhousepress.com/camp.htm)

### 20: TTC Knitalong

Toronto, ON

Tour Toronto's yarn shops with other knitters via the streetcars and subways of this great city. Lots of shopping, prizes and knitterly companionship.

[ttcknitalong.blogspot.ca](http://ttcknitalong.blogspot.ca)

## AUGUST

### 18: Fibrations Victoria

Victoria, BC

This is a community-based celebration of fibre artists sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm, featuring demonstrations, food, raffles and a marketplace.

[fibrationsvic.wordpress.com](http://fibrationsvic.wordpress.com)

### 24-25: Twist Fibre Festival

St-André-Avellin, QC

TWIST is an annual event that serves as a showcase of the fibre world and is intended for the general public, enthusiasts, fibre producers, fleece animal breeders, artists, artisans and professionals alike.

[www.festivaltwist.org](http://www.festivaltwist.org)

## SEPTEMBER

### 14: Kitchener-Waterloo Knitters' Fair

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON

This fair is the largest event of its kind in Canada. 35,000 square feet of space devoted to knitting, offering an incredible display of diverse fibre.

[www.kwknittersguild.ca](http://www.kwknittersguild.ca)

### 27-29: KnitEast Atlantic Fibre Fair

St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, NB

First-class teachers, workshops, yoga, fashion show and a public fibre marketplace in a charming seaside town.

[www.kniteast.com](http://www.kniteast.com)

**Chain-Stitch Rib**  
Multiple of 3 + 2

Row 1: K2, \*p1, k2; repeat from \* to end.

Row 2: (right side) P2, \*k1, p2; repeat from \* to end.

Row 3: Repeat row 1.

Row 4: P2, \*yarn back, insert needle through centre of stitch 3 rows below next stitch on needle and knit this in the usual way, slipping stitches above off the need at the same time; p2; repeat from \* to end.

Repeat these 4 rows.



Source: 365 Knitting Stitches a Year Perpetual Calendar: stitch for April 25

**Summary of Legal Action against the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre et al**  
by Catherine Osborne

A vendor at the 2010 Knitters Frolic has sued the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, ("the Centre") alleging that she was injured by a door that hit her on the head as she was removing product from the building with a cart. The insurance company for the Centre has defended the action and named two DKC members, Carole Adams (President of the guild) and Wendy Mauzeroll (the Treasurer who signed the contract) as third parties as part of that defence. The third party claim alleges that DKC failed to properly supervise the actions of the vendor.

The claim appears to be without merit and was likely made as a tactical move in the hope that any payout to the Plaintiff could be split with another insurance company. Nothing has happened with the action since the insurers for the Centre have been informed that the DKC does not have insurance to cover this claim. Unfortunately, even a frivolous claim has to be defended, and the DKC will incur costs in doing so, although our lawyer will keep our costs to a minimum.

The DKC has taken out insurance for all Frolics since the 2010 one, so this situation will not happen again. The Executive is also looking at incorporating to reduce the risk of personal liability, and we are also looking at directors and officers insurance going forward.

Of course, we will also be cautious in embracing new activities where there is a risk of liability, and will determine if the activities are worth the cost of liability insurance.

**We are pleased to confirm the final DKC Executive slate for 2013-2014**

<b>President (returning)</b>	Carole Adams
<b>Communications Coordinator (new)</b>	Suzie Larouche
<b>Program Coordinator (new)</b>	Catherine Osborne
<b>Secretary (new)</b>	Kerry Fast
<b>Special Events &amp; Promotions Coordinator (returning)</b>	Joan Kass
<b>Treasurer (returning)</b>	Wendy Mauzeroll

A special thank-you to Cristina, Donna, Edna and Trish for all their hard work on the executive committee.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TTC Knitalong 2013**

Now in its 8th year, The TTC Knitalong unites excited groups of knitters who spend the day touring around town via TTC visiting various local knitting stores, making new friends, and shopping to their hearts content. This year's KACL will take place on Saturday July 20th, and runs from 11 a.m. to approximately 7 p.m. All proceeds to benefit Sistering.

Visit [tcknitalong.blogspot.ca](http://tcknitalong.blogspot.ca) for registration information.



The proceeds from our monthly raffles are donated to our chosen charities, including the Canadian Cancer Society and Sistering women's shelter. We have raised **\$1383** so far this year, with a goal of \$1500. **We're so close to our goal!**

**DKC Executive**

**President: Carole Adams**

[president@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:president@downtownknitcollective.ca)

**Programming Coordinator: Cristina Simionovici**

[programme@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:programme@downtownknitcollective.ca)

**Promotion Coordinator: Edna Zuber**

[promotion@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:promotion@downtownknitcollective.ca)

**Communications Coordinator: Donna Lyons**

[communications@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:communications@downtownknitcollective.ca)

**Treasurer: Wendy Mauzeroll**

[treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca)

**Secretary: Trish Denhoed**

[secretary@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:secretary@downtownknitcollective.ca)

**Special Events Coordinator: Joan Kass**

[events@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:events@downtownknitcollective.ca)

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