

knitting yarns

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MAY 2014

May 21: Lorraine Condotta



Toronto-born Lorraine has been knitting non-stop for over 20 years. Her passion is colourwork and traditional knitting. She began "Twisted Traditions" in 2006, focusing on the colours of today, with the inspirations of the past. Lorraine will be speaking about her traditional designs (fair isle and aran) including why she is drawn to traditional designs and where she looks for inspiration.

Coming up in June

We'll wrap up our last meeting of the season with presentations from Diamond yarns and Westminster Fibers. These yarn companies will showcase their yarns and designs. This should be a great opportunity to see some of their new lines and make plans for a summer of knitting.

Meeting Location Change

Unfortunately, we have been forced to change our meeting location again due to the ongoing renovations at Innis College.

For both May and June, we will be meeting at the Wallberg Building, Room 116, 184-200 College Street. The building is 400 metres west of the Queen's Park subway station (about a 5-minute walk).

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Location

Temporary Location: Wallberg Building
184-200 College St. Room 116
(North side of College, near St. George st.)
on the University of Toronto campus.

TTC Access

Five-minute walk west from
Queen's Park 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 April Meeting *by Heather Brady*

About 140 people squeezed into the temporary meeting space, at least 10 of them new to the guild.

Announcements

A (non-DKC affiliated) bus trip to Rheinbeck is being planned for October 17-19. Details forthcoming.

Executive positions—yes, it's that time of year. Several positions will be vacant, including Treasurer and President, as Wendy and Carole are both stepping down (Carole says it's time for someone new, and she's moving to Timbuktu). The VP Promotions position has been discontinued. We will be accepting nominations at the May meeting. If you do plan to nominate someone, please let them know first. Elections, if necessary, will be held at the June meeting. It's time for some new blood on the executive!

Show & Tell

Vivian showed a Laura Chau shoulder warmer in blue, and underneath that was an ecru tee, Gemini (a Knitty pattern). Vivian was attracted by the lacy yoke. It's made of pure cotton, but she will not be trying that again—it blends only from now on.

Denise showed a pattern that will be available at her Frolic booth called Heartstrings. Indeed, it was a string of hearts. She says it's a great stash buster, and will go up on Ravelry as a fundraiser soon.

Emma showed an Out of Darkness shawl to a chorus of oohs and ahhs. She says it's actually easier than it looks and highly recommends the pattern. She used 100% silk custom-dyed yarn from Lichtfaden, and beads from Mary Maxim.

Cristina showed a colour pooling scarf and vest, and claims she was infected with the "pooling virus" by Trish. She said after you do five or six scarves you still want to do more, so she moved on to a vest.

She had only enough yarn for one side, but it looked very cool worn overtop of a black shirt.

Linda showed scarf made in the Lizard Ridge pattern with Noro Kureyon. She made sure the ends matched, and then did the middle. Linda then edged the project with single crochet in dark purple to unify it. She didn't block on the advice of the Purple Purl to preserve the bumps.

Karen showed a Square One wrap (a vintage pattern that has been revived) and a Faith jacket. Square One is knit all in one piece, with mitres. The Faith Jacket was a hybrid, with assorted elements from other designers incorporated by Karen.

Kerry showed a huge and colourful blanket with a touching backstory. Eight years ago, one of her sisters (an avid knitter) passed away, and her yarn stash was cleaned out. Kerry took home bags and bags of yarn ends. She decided to knit a blanket with them, thinking it was a good way to connect with her sister. Tragically, moths got to the blanket. She found it couldn't be mended, so decided to pull back and re-knit the entire thing. An epic labour of love with beautiful results.

Guest Speaker

Sally Melville: Why We Knit
Sally started off by noting that knitting for pleasure seems to be a fairly recent phenomenon. For others, it's more of a household chore. What is it that we get out of it that they don't? For one, it's very calming. Sally has heard of truckers who knit to counteract road rage when stuck in traffic. She's also heard about inmates in a Brazilian prison who are given a day off their sentence for every three days they spend knitting. It just does things to us that are *good*.

What else do we get out of it?

Knitting is usually social: people don't knit long before they start looking for a group to knit with.

Knitting has been proven to be good for the brain: it supports very practical skills. It contributes to focus, math skills, hand-eye coordination and spatial relations. Jacques Plante was known to knit in the dressing room for this reason.

Knitting can enhance brain health and hedge against dementia, but not if it's miles and miles of garter stitch. Sally noted that you need to be following patterns, making decisions and modifications. Work on something a little difficult, and your brain will thank you.

Why are knitters never bored? It's been described as a state of mind called "flow". It falls in the area between anxiety (challenge without skill) and boredom (skills but no challenge). Knitting teaches us to set goals and work towards them.

Knitting is process, but of course there's also the product. Saying "I want to knit that" is very different from "I want to *wear* that." Sally urged the audience to honour our craft by wearing what we knit, and knitting what we want to wear. She suggested that when you've made something you really like, make more! Try different colours, fibres or modifications.

Direct more of your income to local yarn shops and support the local economy. In our culture of instant gratification, we need to remember that things worth doing take time. Art, literature, and yes, knitting.

We'd like to thank Sally for an enjoyable evening that left everyone feeling good about our craft.

(If anyone is wondering, the red cape-like garment she was wearing is called L'Enveloppe).

2014 Executive Nominations

At this time we are accepting nominations for the Executive positions for the 2014/15 membership year. While nominations can be made for all positions, please note that the President and Registrar/Treasurer positions are vacant and need to be filled. The positions with a brief description of the duties are:

President

Responsible for the leadership of the DKC including: approving the agenda for and chairing both the monthly executive and monthly DKC meetings; acting as the editorial board for the DKC newsletter; planning DKC activities in collaboration with other executive members; participating in and promoting DKC activities; fundraising for the DKC; and, assigning a designate for duties as required.

Secretary

Responsible for the documentation and maintenance of DKC records including: drafting and distributing approved executive meeting agenda; drafting executive meeting minutes; and, managing, organizing and maintaining DKC calendar and documents on the shared DKC Google Docs drive. Assisting in the organization of monthly meetings by purchasing supplies for monthly DKC mailings; preparing signage as required; and, preparing Powerpoint slide for meeting introduction. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Registrar and Treasurer

Responsible for all aspects of DKC finances including: collecting revenue from all DKC planned events; arranging timely deposits; making payments to vendors/suppliers; reimbursing members for incurred expenses; preparing payments for speaker honoraria and expenses; ensuring proper procedures are in place and are followed when DKC financial

transactions are made; and, providing financial statements monthly to executive. Responsible for yearly membership registration including form development and for organization of Registration table at monthly DKC meetings. Sends out blast emails to membership as required and requested. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Special Events Co-ordinator

Responsible for the organization of DKC events such as the Toronto Knitter's Frolic and Relay for Life Team. For each event, the co-ordinator will work with a dedicated team to plan and organize the event, run the event. At event completion, the co-ordinator, with the assistance of the treasurer will provide the executive with a full report including a financial statement, about the event. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Programming Co-ordinator

Responsible for the program at the monthly DKC meetings including: developing a programming committee/network to develop ideas and formats for monthly meetings; contacting guest speakers and negotiating suitable dates, acceptable honoraria and expenses, A/V equipment required and presentation content; organizing Work of Our Hands fashion show, selecting moderators, collaborating on format and calling for entries; organizing Skills Exchange mini-workshops, calling for teachers and compiling requirements; providing newsletter editor, webmaster and

Ravelry group moderator with meeting information to promote the event; communicating with facility landlord before each meeting regarding the specific requirements; ensuring that meeting set up and Speaker Table meet requirements and, greeting, introducing and thanking speaker. Participates in DKC activities as required.

Communications Co-ordinator

This position, working with a dedicated team, is responsible for the coordination of DKC communications including Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, and DKC email), DKC website, and Ravelry to ensure clear, accurate and consistent messaging to promote the DKC brand. The position will work closely with other DKC members to support the various programs and events, and ensure clarity in division of responsibilities. Participates in DKC activities as required.

You may nominate yourself or another member of the DKC. If you nominate another member, we will confirm with that member that they wish to accept the nomination before putting their name on the ballot. Nominations should be emailed to dkctreasurer@gmail.com. If you don't have email access, you may submit your nomination at the May DKC meeting. The deadline for nominations will be the evening of May 21, 2014 with elections being held (if necessary) at the June DKC meeting.

Newsletter Editor Needed

After seven years, our newsletter editor will be stepping down in June. The editor is responsible for setting deadlines, liaising with contributors and producing the monthly 4-page newsletter (web) and yarn store flyer (print) in PDF format, as well as occasionally producing other promotional pieces for the guild as needed. Graphic design, photography, writing and editing skills a must. Please contact an executive member if you're able to step into this role, starting in September.

Stitch of the Month *by Diane Martin*

Leaf Panel

Worked over 24 sts on a background of stocking st.

Row 1: (right side): Sl 2, k1, p2sso, k7, yo, k1, yo, p2, yo, k1, yo, k7, k3tog.

Row 2 and every even row, including Row 10: p11, k2, p11.

Row 3: Sl 2, k1, p2sso, k6, (yo, k1) twice, p2, (k1, yo) twice, k6, k3tog.

Row 5: Sl 2, k1, p2sso, k5, yo, k1, yo, k2, p2, k2, yo, k1, yo, k5, k3tog.

Row 7: Sl 2, k1, p2sso, k4, yo, k1, yo, k3, p2, k3, yo, k1, yo, k4, k3tog.

Row 9: Sl 2, k1, p2sso, k3, yo, k1, yo, k4, p2, k4, yo, k1, yo, k3, k3tog.

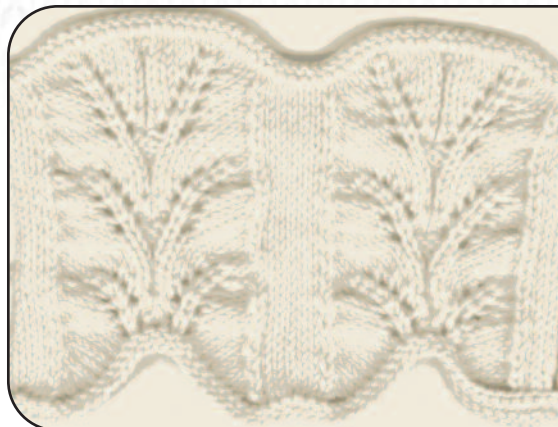
Repeat these 10 rows.

Sl 2, k1, p2sso: double left-leaning decrease done as slip as if to knit, slip as if to knit, knit 1, pass the 2 slipped stitches over as a single unit.

yo: yarn over

k3tog: knit 3 together (right leaning double decrease).

Adapted from 365 Knitting Stitches a Year perpetual calendar, Martingale & Company, Woodinville WA, 2002: stitch for January 30



A Volunteer Thank-You

The Knitter's Frolic could not be successful without our amazing volunteers.

A big thank you to our wonderful team of 66 volunteers. Those of you on line control, admissions desk, vendor support, workshop registration, raffle table, hospitality, information desk, wool winding, Relay for Life, setup and tear down all did a terrific job.

Thank you to each and every one of you.

Joan, Wendy & Carole



UPCOMING EVENTS

Relay for Life 2014

Time to celebrate our 10th Anniversary! The DKC team has raised nearly \$90,000 for cancer care, research and education.

Team members will once again be knitting chemo caps, prayer shawls and scarves by lantern light at Sunnybrook Park from 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13th until 7:00 a.m. the next morning. We'd love donations of knitting from DKC members to help decorate our 10 x 20' tent. All items will be delivered to Princess Margaret Lodge and Gilda's Club in Barrie.

Pledge your support to our team members who vow to knit or spin all night in return for your donation. Pledges may be made at the May meeting, or online at <http://tiny.cc/relay14>. We will have pledge forms at our May meeting. Donations may be made by cheque or cash and all donations over \$20.00 qualify for a tax receipt.

DKC Executive

President: Carole Adams

president@downtownknitcollective.ca

Programming Coordinator: Catherine Osborne

programme@downtownknitcollective.ca

Communications Coordinator: Suzie Larouche

communications@downtownknitcollective.ca

Treasurer: Wendy Mauzeroll

treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca

Secretary: Kerry Fast

secretary@downtownknitcollective.ca

Special Events/Promotions

Coordinator: Joan Kass

events@downtownknitcollective.ca

www.downtownknitcollective.ca

feedback@downtownknitcollective.ca

 [@DKCtoronto](https://twitter.com/DKCtoronto)

 facebook.com/DKCtoronto



Knitter's Frolic 2014

Another great Frolic event was put on this year with the help of our many volunteers, vendors, shoppers and workshop attendees. Special thanks to everyone who made it a success.

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Admission: 1,770 | Relay for Life Fundraising: |
| • Workshop Attendees: 111 | • Relay Table - \$996.15 |
| • Volunteers: 66 | • Ball Winding - \$399.65 |
| • Raffle Prizes: 119 | • DKC tote bags left: 0 |

Photos by Victor Kass

