

Knitting yarns

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November 20: Yarn Store Panel

At the November meeting, we will have a panel of GTA yarn shop owners well known and loved by guild members: EweKnit, Linda's Craftique, Purple Purl and Mary's Yarns. The panel members will discuss their experiences with owning a yarn shop, including challenges and joys, and advice for anyone who may want to open their own yarn shop.

They will also talk about trends in knitting, how they decide what stock to carry, and a variety of other yarn-related matters.

Fashion Show: Call for Submissions

The annual Work Of Our Hands Fashion Show is coming up fast, and here is the required info for all submissions:

- Name of garment or project
- Knitter's name
- Model's name
- Designer
- Pattern name
- Pattern source
- Knitting or crochet techniques used
- 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? Suggestions for variations? (max 200 words)

Catherine can provide an electronic form and answer any questions. Please email submissions by November 30 to:
programme@downtownknitcollective.ca

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

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

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 October Meeting *by Heather Brady*

Approximately 85 knitters were in attendance at the guild's second meeting of the year.

Announcements

The executive has decided that no one wants to mess around with the **nametags** anymore, so instead nametag stickers will be handed out at future meetings. Members might also want to make their own! Have fun with it.

The guild is reaching out to **yarn shops** with the intention of creating a symbiotic relationship— we can share info, network, and post about upcoming events. If you know of any yarn shops that might want to promote the guild and in turn have the shop promoted, please feel free to contact a member of the executive.

The executive has been deep in discussion about a **name change** due to results from feedback and focus groups. It's been suggested that our name sounds too "exclusive" or "elite", and not welcoming enough. We've been looking at changing our name in the new year to the GTA Knitter's Guild, since our members really come from all over. We're hoping this name change will open the door to more knitters.

We've had a few requests-- can everyone please take it easy on **perfumes** before coming to meetings? Our scent-sensitive members thank you!

Raffle

A Denise needle set was won by Susan Monis Brett. A huge skein of

Fleece Artist Tosca was won by Pia Kallas-Harvey. A Soak Box kit was won by Anna Maria M.

Show & Tell

Kim Hume showed a Chinese Lace Pullover which she adapted with a lovely crochet border, using Madeline Tosh Merino DK.

Trish Denhoed showed her Trellis baby blanket (now available on Patternfish). With a new grandchild on the way, we can expect lots of baby stuff from her in the near future. She also showed a very cool scarf which employed an intentional colour pooling technique. Trish is addicted!

Susan Shone showed a short-sleeved cardigan in Dot & Dash pattern using yarn from Expression Fibers in Alaska. She made the sweater two sizes too small, as she is losing weight. Way to go, Susan!

Pia Kallas Harvey showed a Turkish lace-stitch shawl, using very bright Madeline Tosh sock yarn to great effect. She credited Joan for giving her lots of lace technical support.

Diane Martin showed a lace shawl of her own design, featuring the ingenious use of increases to keep it from slipping off her shoulders.

Guest Speaker

Event planner by day, knitter by night— Anne Blayney is an expert on colour theory. Her goal for the evening was to get us thinking about what colours you're drawn to, what ones work best, and how to use physical and virtual tools online to work out yarn choices.

Urging the audience not to panic, Anne started out with a short refresher on colour theory. Everyone's probably familiar with the colour wheel-- primaries, secondaries and intermediate colours. She also briefly outlined Hue (a colour), Tint (the colour mixed with white) and Shade (the colour toned down with black), as well as Saturation (strength/dilution of colour) and Value (the lightness or darkness of a colour).

Take a look at your own personal palette. What colours do you love? What do you usually wear? What do you *not* wear? What do you *wish* you could wear? Use your closet and your stash as a guide to come up with a short list of colours that work well together and (more importantly) work well *on you*.

Add neutrals and variations of "your" colours to the set. If you've got too many colours in your personal palette, weed some out. Then, when shopping for yarn or clothing, carry a cheat sheet with you as a guide (Anne suggested making a portable palette using hardware store paint chips or pieces of yarn from your stash).

We all love shopping for yarn, but sometimes it's easy to make a bad choice. Yarn that looks gorgeous in the skein can look like "thrown-up Fruit Loops" when knit. Anne's rule of thumb: the simpler the stitch pattern, the more complex the yarn can be (and vice versa). Be sure to check anniebeeknits.wordpress.com for more of Anne's colour-combining wisdom, and links to online palette creation tools.



What's in a Name? by Suzie Larouche

The Downtown Knit Collective has had a beautiful life. Really. Except when people have thought it to be a group of women knitting together to earn a living; or have dismissed it to be a group of old ladies knitting the rest of their lives away; or believed it to be a bunch of knitters who gather somewhere downtown to knit.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, we know better. Our group has been extremely active in promoting the fibre arts, mostly through knitting, in the Greater Toronto Area. Meetings where experienced lecturers share their knowledge, skills exchanges, a lively newsletter that, in addition to relating our meetings, teaches stitch patterns and new techniques, an annual Frolic that has taken on a life of its own, involvement in charities and what else; we know for a fact that we are not "just a something". In the light of all these facts and after long and due consideration, the executive has decided that the time

is ripe for a change of name.

Many names could be considered and even more could be rejected. The first thing to eliminate is the "downtown" reference. We are in the GTA and our members are all over that area, so we cannot include one part of it and exclude another in the new name.

Because the word "collective" has a legal meaning that is very far from what we are, that too has to go. We believe, however, that we must become a guild rather than an association, for all that the word connotes.

In the Middle Ages, a guild was a grouping of people who shared a trade or a craft and, in order to pursue that trade, one had to go through an arduous apprenticeship, after which they needed to be accepted into the proper guild. Then, if anyone needed goods or services, they would go to guild members and be assured that

they were getting the best. Nowadays, we forgo the apprenticeship and the commercial side, but the word "guild" still has an undertone of quality to it. A guild is a gathering of highly skilled people. And we are, as you know, highly skilled. Thus, we plan to become a Knitters' Guild.

Now, we need our members' help to determine what the exact name of that guild will be. Your ideas are needed to fill the gap before the last two words. So please, send us your suggestions. There will be a special thread on the Ravelry DKC forum for your suggestions to be received and discussed. You can also e-mail me at dkccomm@gmail.com. We look forward to reading them and we hope for active participation.

This change will not come about overnight, but it is something to look forward to in the coming months. Keep an eye out, there will be more news.



Join us for High Tea and Artisans Fair
at the 1st Annual Holiday Bazaar!

Presented by Relay For Life in Toronto Central
Supporting Sunnybrook Hospital

When: Sunday, December 8th, 2013 12:00- 4:00pm

Where: Lawrence Park Community Church
2180 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON. M4N 3K7

Admission to the Artisan's Fair is FREE!

High Tea Tickets are: \$20 per person

First Seating: 1:30- 2:30 pm

Second Seating: 3:00- 4:00 pm

To purchase tickets for the high tea contact:

Shireen: 416-454-0473 or shireen_rangwala@rogers.com



Stitch of the Month *by Diane Martin*

Houndstooth Pattern

Multiple of 3

Slip all stitches purl-wise

Cast on in A.

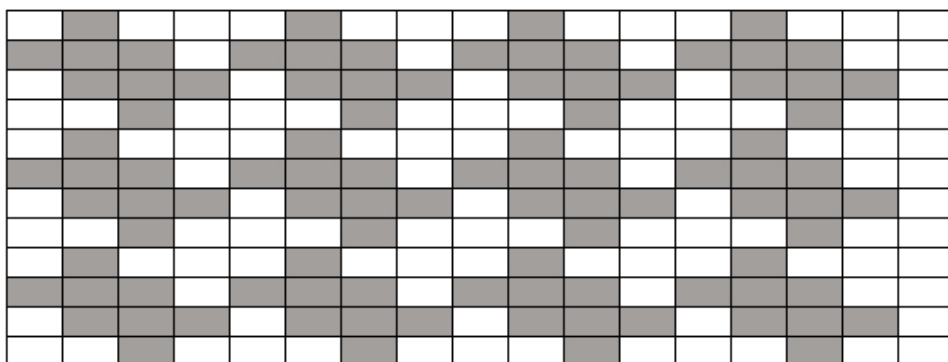
Row 1: (right side) Using A, K1, * sl1, k2, rep from * to last 2 sts, sl1, k1.

Row 2: Using A, purl.

Row 3: Using B, *sl1, k2, rep from * to end

Row 4: Using B, purl.

Repeat these 4 rows.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Quick Gifts Project Parties at the Purple Purl

Help for last-minute crafters at the Purple Purl! The four Wednesday evenings leading up to Christmas will be dedicated to gift-making project classes with instructors at the ready for both Knit and Crochet questions. Whether you just need help with the choosing of projects... or the finishing of projects that you have in progress... or if you are in a fix and need some ideas for last minute gifts... come on in for these festive evenings. We will have a collection of giftie knit/crochet ideas handy for inspiration!

Classes run November 27, December 4, 11 and 18 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., hosted by Kate Atherley and Jennifer Campbell. Call (416) 463-1162 to reserve your spot, as space is limited.

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