

knitting Yarns



JUNE 15: ALISA McRONALD AND TAMARA KRIEVINS

This month: Stylish Knitted Skirts (they don't need to be dowdy or droopy!) Exploring thoughtful and creative fibre choices, meticulous gauge determinations, and best practices for professional-looking garments.

These two DKC members generated quite a lot of interest when they modeled their skirts at our fashion show last December. In tonight's presentation, they will share their skirt-making explorations with us—their successes, as well as their “learning experiences”.

Alisa and Tamara's discussions will include: combining yarns and fibres in order to achieve desired fabric and gauge, fun and flattering colour choices, appropriate silhouettes for various body types, and technical tips for garment construction and care.



Alisa McDonald has been crafting since she was born. Making tube dresses for her Barbies and using her little brother and cat as dress models for her creations were some of her favorite activities as a young child (or at least until her little brother got bigger than her)! She has been teaching and exhibiting her work in North America and abroad since 1995. She currently maintains her blog (fibreperson.blogspot.com) and further develops her fibre fixation by immersing herself in the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Guild handspinning programme.

Tamara Krievins has been fibre-crafting since the sixties... (yes, she even made macramé plant hangers). She has been the manager of the yarn shop Passionknit since 2009. Recently she submitted all of the hand-worked samples and lesson plans, as well as logged the volunteer teaching hours required to receive her Teacher Certificate in Crochet from the Craft Yarn Council of America.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

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

\$6.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers

Free to Full 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

As expected, Sally Melville drew a packed house at our May meeting.

Announcements

Carole wanted to thank everyone who came to the Frolic, and especially all of our volunteers. It was our biggest one yet—there were approximately 1600 attendees and it took an hour to clear the line that had formed by the 9 a.m. start time.

Stitch n' Pitch is on July 20th, Jays vs. Seattle. Hopefully tickets will be available for sale at the June meeting. If not, Joan will take your name down.

A new door volunteer is needed starting in September—please contact Wendy Mauzeroll if you're able to help out.

This year's TTC Knitalong will start at 11 a.m. on July 9. Check out the blog at tcknitalong.blogspot.com to register.

Show and Tell

Ever-resourceful Gloria says pretty stitch markers like the ones she picked up at the Frolic can double as earrings. She also recommends buying a game of Pick Up Sticks at the dollar store for a lifetime supply of DPNs.

Flo's "Baubles By the Yard" pattern will be appearing in *A Needle Pulling Thread* magazine. She showed a beaded necklace (made on 000 needles) that is part of an ongoing series.

Fiona showed a very cool applied i-cord pillow that will also be appearing in the summer issue of *A Needle Pulling Thread*.

New member Glenna brought her plum-coloured Pi Shawl made with laceweight merino silk from Indigo Dragonfly.

Elena had yet another epic finished project, this time a large and lacy peacock-coloured shawl with ruffled edging.

Rhoda showed a colourful cardigan knit from cuff to cuff, made from 60% merino and 40% alpaca. Even the buttons were made of yarn—knotted i-cords.

Raffle

Four Sally Melville books were given away: *Mother Daughter Knits* was won by Patrick

Madden, *The Knit Stitch* was won by Mary June Lenouvel, *The Purl Stitch* was won by Nellie Dubinsky and *Color* was won by Alison Hokkanen.

Guest Speaker

Sally Melville

We were very pleased to welcome Sally back to the DKC, having last graced our podium back in January of 2007. Sally started off by saying that knitting is a very practical craft, and this particular talk (based on her book *Styles*) is the most practical of her topics. After all, is there anything more practical and honest than making stuff out of sticks and yarn?

She began with a history of how her first book, *Styles*, came to be, at a time when knitting was still not terribly popular (1997). The idea sprang from a sweater she made at the request of her then-teenaged daughter Caddy, who begged Sally to knit a sweater for her boyfriend. Sally didn't want to spend a lot on yarn for someone who might not be around forever, and so her first stash-busting pattern was born—Topher's Pullover. Sure enough, the boyfriend was soon out of the picture, but the pattern and its legacy endures. It was enough to get Sally (and subsequently her publisher) excited about patterns designed to help knitters use up stash.

Sally started by showing a picture of her own stash—arranged not by fibre or weight, but by colour (kids can help with this). If you have multiple balls of one type, she also recommends writing down how many more balls there are on a piece of masking tape stuck to the ball band, and storing the other balls elsewhere. This should make your stash much more manageable. Two more tools that you will find handy are a colour wheel, available at any art supply store, and a teleidoscope, available at higher-end toy stores (and KnitPicks, until they run out). She recommends grabbing yarns that you think might work well together and having a look at them through the teleidoscope, which will make a repeating pattern out of whatever it's pointing at. Keep arranging until you find a combo that excites you.

Sally assured the audience that it is indeed possible to use different fibres, textures and weights in the same project without it

being a disaster. The key is to develop a consistent colour scheme and a forgiving stitch pattern. Sally says that basically all colours go together, it's the **intensity** that matters most. Get to know the difference between **brights** (pure colour), **tints** (the colour plus white), **tones** (colour plus grey) and **shades** (colour plus black). The colour wheel will help you with this. By staying within these tonal ranges, you will be able to develop a "safe" colour combination. She assures us that by using a third up to a half of the colour wheel, your colour scheme will not fail.

Many knitters are afraid of colour, but Sally encouraged us to experiment and be bold. Rather than starting from scratch with your colour scheme, Sally also suggested going to a trained expert for inspiration—one of her favourite sweaters is based on a Klee painting. Find a painting or a photo you love, and try matching yarns to the colours you see. This might help you become more adventurous. Another way you can get started is to choose one colour of yarn that you love, and then try to pick one or two stash yarns you can stand to see next to it. Test them out in a small repeating pattern and see what you get.

Sally also introduced us to the power of the Main Colour and Contrast Colours (MC and CC). Using a consistent MC can really help to pull everything together and avoid the dreaded 'oddball' look. She noted that if the MC is darker than the CCs (like navy or charcoal grey) it tends to be more calming and pleasing to the eye. Another trick you can use to tone down a finished garment is to use an overdye. As long as you've used all wool, a dip in a neutral-coloured acid dye like brown or grey can really unify a 'dog's breakfast' of a sweater.

Some final advice from Sally:

- If the pattern is complex, keep the fabric simple (and vice versa).
- Knit what you wear, wear what you knit.
- Once is a mistake, twice is a problem, three times is a design.
- The less planning, the better. Don't be afraid to be random.
- Don't wimp out—if you don't use different textures and sheens, the results will be bland and dull.
- How do you know if you have enough yarn? Don't worry... you do! You just do.

STITCH OF THE MONTH by Diane Martin

Rose Leaf and Trellis Edging

Abbreviations

Ω = Slip 1 purlwise

/ = Knit 2 together

o = yarn over

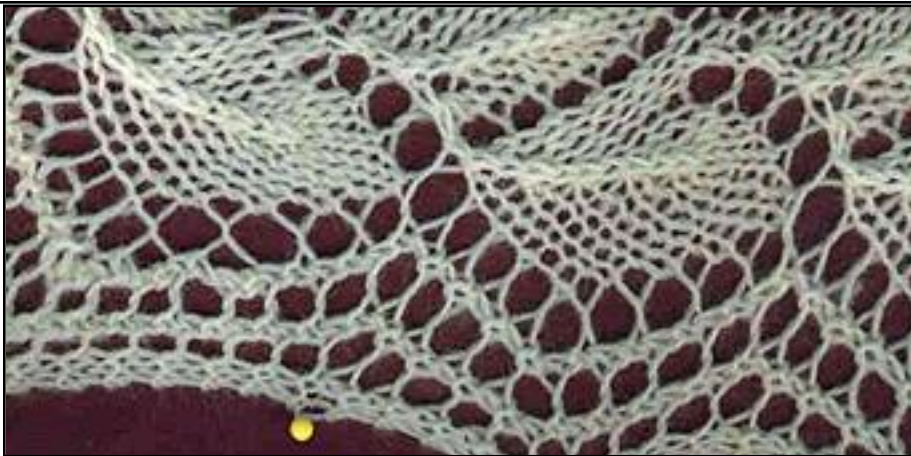
↑ = centred double decrease (sl 2 as if to k2tog, k1, pass slipped sts over)

k3tog = knit 3 together

number by itself, ie 2 = knit that number of stitches

(--)_x _ = repeat the instructions inside the brackets by the number next to the multiplication sign

, = commas separate discrete instructions, ie o, /, o = yarn over, k2tog, yarn over



20 sts & 18 rows

Row 1: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 2, ↑, k3tog, o, 1, (o, /)x2, o, 2

Row 2: 6, p9, 1, o, /, 1

Row 3: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 2, k3tog, o, 3, (o, /)x2, o, 2

Row 4: 6, p10, 1, o, /, 1

Row 5: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 1 k3tog, o, 5, (o, /)x2, o, 2

Row 6: 6, p11, 1, o, /, 1

Row 7: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 1, /, o, 7, (o, /)x2, o, 2

Row 8: 6, p13, 1, o, /, 1

Row 9: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 1, o, 4, ↑, 4, (o, /)x2, o, 2

Row 10: 7, p13, 1, o, /, 1

Row 11: Ω, 2, o, /, (o, /)x2, ↑, 3, (o, /)x3, 1

Row 12: 7, p13, 1, o, /, 1

Row 13: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 5, 0, 2, ↑, 2, (o, /)x3, 1

Row 14: 7, p13, 1, o, /, 1

Row 15: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 2, ↑, 2, o, 1, ↑, 1, (o, /)x3, 1

Row 16: 7, p11, 1, o, /, 1

Row 17: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 2, ↑, 2, o, ↑, (o, /)x3, 1

Row 18: 7, p9, 1, o, /, 1

To Turn Corner

(whole bunch of short rows)

Rows 1 to 5: as written above

Row 5a: 6, turn

Row 5b: (/, o)x2, 2

Row 6: 6, p9, turn

Row 7: Ω, 1, o, 7, (o, /)x2, o, 2

Row 7a: 6, turn

Row 7b: (/, o)x2, 2

Row 8: 6, p10, turn

Row 9: Ω, 2, ↑, 4, (o, /)x2, o, 2

Row 9a: 6, turn

Row 9b: (/, o)x2, 2

Row 10: 7, p11, 1, o, /, 1

Row 11: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 1, o, 3, ↑, 3, (o, /)x3, 1

Row 11a: 7, turn

Row 11b: (o, /)x3, 1

Row 12: 7, p7, turn

Row 13: o, 2, ↑, 2, (o, /)x3, 1

Row 13a: 7, turn

Row 13b: (o, /)x3, 1

Row 14: 7, p10, 1, o, /, 1

Row 15: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 1, o, 3, o, 1, 1, (o, /)x3, 1

Row 16: 7, p11, 1, o, /, 1

Row 17: Ω, 2, o, /, o, 2, ↑, 2, o, ↑, o, (o, /)x3, 1

Row 18: 7, p9, 1, o, /, 1

KNITTING FOR A CURE by Joan Kass

Sponsors needed! Donors too!

Is there any one of us who doesn't have a friend or family member stricken by cancer?

Downtown Knit Collective members Patrick Madden, Mary Pat MacDonald, Karen Cooper, Edna Zuber, Carol Corsetti, Irene Reed, Wannietta Prescod, Rochelle Ribeiro and undoubtedly others, are all cancer survivors.

Support our DKC Relay team in raising funds for Sunnybrook's Odette Cancer Centre, the second largest cancer treatment/research facility in Canada. Funds go to cancer care, research, transportation and support for patients, information hotlines and advocacy to change public policies. Your DKC team pledges to KNIT scarves and chemo caps overnight at Sunnybrook Park on June 17th-18th.

Our Knitting for the Cure scarves will once again decorate the DKC tent. We welcome donations of scarves, hats etc at our June 15th meeting. Remember, cancer has a rainbow of colours. We look forward to a very colourfully decorated tent. All knitted items will be delivered to Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre, Princess Margaret Lodge and Gilda's Club in Barrie.

Your pledges will be gratefully accepted at the June 15th DKC meeting or online:

<http://tinyurl.com/dkc2011>

Please help us reach our fundraising goal.

As Wannietta once said to me, "Everyone undergoing treatment for Cancer deserves their own personal hug".

Joan Kass
Team Captain, DKC Relay for Life Team

Copyright, or Why You Shouldn't Copy Patterns

Everyone has heard of copyright (or at least I hope so!) but many people are unclear as to when it applies.

First let me say that if you create a design and write it down in your own words, possibly with your own charts, photographs, and illustrations, you own the copyright to that pattern. You don't have to register it or record it - it is automatically copyrighted. Note that it is the words, charts, photographs and illustrations that are copyrighted, not the design itself.

Now, perhaps you have a blog and decide to put your pattern up there, freely available. Another knitter sees it, thinks it's wonderful and prints off a dozen copies for her friends. Is this legal? NO. Even though the pattern was free, the knitter does not have the right to make copies (which is exactly what copyright is!). The correct thing for this knitter to do is to tell all her friends about this wonderful design and allow them to visit the blog and get their own copies. After all, one of the reasons for posting the pattern was to increase blog traffic, and perhaps revenue from advertising on the blog.

Maybe instead of posting the pattern on a blog, you sell it to a magazine. In many cases the magazine buys the copyright as well as first publication rights. Again, a knitter buys the magazine and, when a friend admires the pattern, offers to photocopy it for her. Again—NOT legal. She can, however, loan or give the

magazine to her friend, providing she has not kept a copy for her own use. The friend can also borrow the magazine from a library or, of course, buy her own copy.

As a side note (and a bit of a complication!) you are ALWAYS entitled to make a copy of a legally obtained pattern for your OWN use. In fact, I advise it, so you can carry the pattern around, make notes on it, circle the size you are making, cross off the rows you've done, and so on.

Modern technology has made it much easier for the spread of illegal copying. Many people own scanners and can scan and convert to PDF format even hardcover books. So, suppose you have a large, expensive, and out-of-print book. Since people can't buy a new copy, surely it's alright to copy that for your friends! NO, absolutely not! Copyright lasts for a very long time; it doesn't end just because something is out of print. Someone (either the author or the publisher) holds the copyright to the book and if you go around distributing free copies, that devalues the book and makes it less likely that it will be reprinted. It also means that if the book is reprinted, many of the people with illegal copies will not bother to buy it.

Sometimes there are going to be patterns that you really want but just cannot find legally. I know it's easy and tempting to make an illegal copy; it seems somehow different than deciding you really want a BMW and stealing one, but it IS still theft. And usually, you're stealing from a knitting designer (and we don't make much money!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Relay for Life 2011

The Relay For Life will be held on Friday, June 17 and runs from 7 pm to 7 am, in Sunnybrook Park, Toronto.

Habu Textiles Trunk Show

Habu Textiles comes to Rose Haven in Picton, June 25 & 26! Workshops and a trunk show both days. Details at www.rosehavenfarm.net

Stitch n' Pitch

July 20, Rogers Centre. Contact Joan Kass for tickets.

Fiona Ellis Workshop

Fiona will be teaching a workshop at the Halliburton School of the Arts from August 8-12 called Tints, Tones and Knitting with Two Colours. Learn the principles of colour theory and how each relates to knitting. Experiment with both colour and knitting techniques to see how modifications can be made to dramatically change the look of a project. Register at haliburtonschoolofthearts.ca



Sally Melville's samples

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