

HANDCRAFTS MONTHLY



DECEMBER at a glance

December 5 - Gathering at Sharon Kimmel's

December 9 - Sewing World Gathering.

Then we are taking the rest of the month off to focus on family and other friends.

DECEMBER GATHERINGS

Gathering - DECEMBER 5

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Sharon Kimmel's, 114 Confederation Villas NW. Access code is 01818. Please email kimmels@shaw.ca to let Sharon know you are coming.

Gathering - DECEMBER 9

10:00 to noon at Sewing World in the upstairs classroom, 136 71 Ave. SE. If you wish, please bring along a snack to share. Remember to park in the rear and to mention us when you shop.

NEWS FROM HANDCRAFTS COMMITTEE

Handcrafts Committee changes

We bid a reluctant farewell to four members of the committee at the beginning of this month.

Joyce Goddard will find new closet space as she vacates the Fabric Custodian role. We will miss Joyce but she will continue to host demos and to provide great project ideas.

Many thanks to Sharon Kimmel for her able chairing of the committee this year and for her leadership through the sale. Sharon will keep on knitting.

Liz Leroux passes the torch for Workshops and will focus on her role on the Board.

Ellen Monaghan, we all know, will be busy and will continue as custodian for Book Bags, a task that she handles almost single-handedly.

New members joining the committee:

Rose Besler will join Barb Doll as co-custodian in Home Decor.

Kelly Brittain will be the new Fabric Custodian.

Janice Meeking and Glenda Sweetland will share custodial duties for Accessories - except jewelry.

Other changes:

Dawn Bolger moves to Chair from Secretary.

Patty Cucman will keep Jewelry and move to Secretary and Workshops from Accessories Custodian.

Dawn Bolger and Janice McDonald will be BB&B organizers.

Leslie Buckle, Roz Cooper-Key, Barb Doll and Janice McDonald continue in their current roles as Purses and Bags, Children, Home Decor and Yarn Custodians respectively.



KNIT NOTES

WHAT SOLD

Hope you are full of enthusiasm for the coming creative year. This month we are focusing on what to make in Accessories, excluding Jewelry. In the coming months watch for focus on the other product lines.

This was a banner year for all aspects of Accessories but the popularity of some items blew us away. 71% of non-jewelry items were sold and most of those remaining will be held for next year. Here is what we sold:

- 123 hats - 66% sold
- 164 scarves - 66% sold
- 63 cowls and neck warmers - 74% sold
- 71 shawls and shawlettes - 71% sold
- 79 pairs of fingerless gloves & mittens - 89% sold
- 37 boot toppers and slippers - 93% sold

The numbers speak. Let's start at the bottom of this list.

WHAT TO MAKE

BOOT TOPPERS:

We could certainly have sold lots more boot toppers. Check the [September Handcrafts Monthly](#) for some suggested patterns. We had 20 pair and could have sold at least twice that.

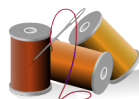
We had a few requests for Leg Warmers which really resemble boot toppers on steroids. We could make basic warmers with ribbed tops and bottoms but let's try to think what might make them irresistible. Try adding embellishments on the tops - leaves or flowers, say - and use vibrant colours. Easy care fibers would be best. Suggest we try a dozen for next year until we see if the demand is real. That's 12 pair in total not 12 pair each!

FELTED SLIPPERS



Slippers pretty much sold out Day 1. We need a range of sizes and colours. There are 170 free patterns on [RAVELRY](#). Be sure to check copyright or ask permission.

THIS one is from DROPS and is fast, cute and free with no restriction for sales. Add embellishments to increase appeal. Some of us have a stash of felted flowers. Just let us know if you want them added.



SEW WHAT?

TEXTING GLOVES and MITTENS:

Once again they flew off the tables. Will we ever saturate this market? All styles seem to sell equally well but choose a special yarn since it takes so little.

Regular mittens of all sizes also sold out.

COWLS:

We had some really interesting knit cowls this year and many shoppers were looking for both simple loops and mobius or infinity. Chunky cowls were most popular with younger shoppers.

We had people ask for fabric infinity scarves (cowls) and we had only a few. Check the [July 2013 Handcrafts Monthly](#) for a great pattern that Joyce Goddard found. It has directions for two lengths and both or either would be great in soft, drape-y fabric.

We had several really nice fabric scarves in rayon and silk and they sold extremely well. Some were hand hemmed but certainly not all. Some were doubled fabric so there was no wrong side. Check [PURL BEE](#) for some great fabric scarf ideas. And of course we will need knit scarves. This year we are almost starting from scratch. YEAH!

VESTS:

We had requests in our survey feedback for more vests. All our vests were knit. Consider a fabric vest, perhaps pieced in bright, modern fabrics. Or try a dressy evening-appropriate fabric. Jacquards are good because they are reversible and a rolled collar just needs to be bound.

Or let's try something completely different, like for instance [BELTS](#).



[PURL BEE](#) has instructions for these cute but easy D-rings belts. Theirs are made of webbing but two layers of grosgrain would also work. Or consider a belt of firm fabric. That could be interesting and so could firmly knit or knit and felted belts. Maybe we need a demo!