

HANDCRAFTS MONTHLY



FEBRUARY at a glance

FEBRUARY 9 - Second Monday Gathering at Sewing World Gathering.

FEBRUARY 17 - Fabric Open House at Dawn's.

FEBRUARY 18 - Knit in at Sharon's.

FEBRUARY 26 - Fourth Thursday Gathering at The Royal Canadian Legion.

FEBRUARY GATHERINGS

FEBRUARY 9

10:00 AM 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.

FEBRUARY 26

1:00 to 3:00 PM, The Royal Canadian Legion, 606 38 Ave NE.

The Legion is providing this venue to us for free. Be sure to say thanks and please do not bring food or beverages in to the Legion. These are available at their snack bar.

NEWS FROM HANDCRAFTS COMMITTEE

WORKSHOPS AND DEMOS FEEDBACK

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to give us feedback on workshops and demos. This feedback, in combination with gathering feedback, has helped us to build a calendar that we hope will suit many of you.

What you told us:

- Provide more opportunities to sit and knit together with some skill building demos. Knit in Public will be back in June and meantime, join us on February 18 at 1:00 PM at Sharon Kimmel's. Details in E-News.
- Offer skill building for small quilting projects and basic sewing. Watch the calendar for a fabric open house/quilt techniques demo combination in May.
- Let's have sew along days to work on joint projects.

Watch for a two-day handbag workshop in March where together we will make a batch of fabric handbags.

- Offer demos after gatherings but not after every gathering.
- Let's try a demo day with multiple demos in rotation. Watch for this in early June.

If there is anything else you need to tell us, send a note to message@ujamaagrandmas.com.

See the full Calendar on [HANDCRAFTS](#).

WHAT TO MAKE

This month we continue our feedback about what sells based on the results of 2014 BB&B with a focus on Children's items. Check [HANDCRAFTS](#) for more info on all the products.

CHILDREN'S - WHAT SOLD

We displayed over 700 items for children for the 2014 sale, sold about 450, and the creativity was truly astounding.

Washable yarn should be used for children's knitted items, as many people avoid natural wool. "Superwash wool" is fine. If possible, include an original yarn wrapper with the garment.

Children's sweaters in the \$15.00 to \$35.00 price range are recommended, as these sell well.

Individual items sell better than layettes, and bold colours sell better than traditional pastels.

Customers often ask for sizes, particularly on sweaters. Include on the tags, wherever possible.

For various reasons we have not been accepting scarves in the children's area.

YARN-BASED ITEMS

The following items are appealing and sell well:

- Garments and blankets made from soft, pliable yarns
- Sweaters with a generous neck opening -as opposed to those that appear tight and hard to get over the noggins
- Clothing items in bold, bright colours (Pink and mint green are a hard sell these days.)
- Toy animals
- Dolls
- Slippers with non-skid soles
- Hand puppets or larger puppets. (Watch for a puppet workshop in August.)

A WORD ABOUT HATS

We sold 101 hats out of 180 displayed, and we already have 90 children's hats for the 2015 sale - mainly for young children. So, if you are planning on making hats, please bear in mind that we are in need of hats for older children (especially boys) and hats that are unique or different in some way.



ITEMS TO SEW

These items made with fabric have been popular recently:

- Toy animals and dolls
- Doll blankets & pillows
- Crayon wraps (Pencil crayons and wax crayons have a longer 'shelf life' than felts.)
- Bibs - plastic backing is preferable
- Flannelette blankets for stroller or crib
- Aprons for both boys and girls
- Girls' purses
- Unique T-shirts (T-shirts tend to sell better than dresses or pants.)
- Headbands
- Growth charts



A FEW MORE THINGS TO CONSIDER

Check out the latest trends and fashions. What wouldn't have sold a few years ago may be all the rage now (and vice versa!)

Use your search engine to find websites for ideas and patterns. "Knit and crochet stuffed animals" or "sewing stuffed dolls" will yield many possibilities. Choose what works for you and what you enjoy making.

Please, pay attention to safety. Customers have become very savvy about this and are seeking safety-compliant articles. Refresh your knowledge of the Children's Safety Guidelines and ensure that your friends who are supporting us in this way are fully aware of them. Safety Guidelines can be found on [HANDCRAFTS](#).