

# HANDCRAFTS MONTHLY



## JANUARY GATHERINGS

### JANUARY 13

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.

### JANUARY 22

1:00 P to 3:00 PM at Jan Geggie's, 1143 Varsity Estates Rise NW  
Please phone 403.286.9823 or e-mail [jangeggie@shaw.ca](mailto:jangeggie@shaw.ca) to let Jan know you will be attending.

JANUARY  
at a glance

**January 13** - Sewing World Gathering.

**January 22** - Gathering at Jan Geggie's



## NEWS FROM HANDCRAFTS COMMITTEE

### WHAT SELLS?

Since the 2013 BB&B sale ended, hand crafters have been asking, "What should I make for 2014 sale?"

In December we focused on Accessories and this month we focus on Purses and Bags - knit, felted and fabric.

Find some great ideas from Leslie Buckle and also remember to refer to the Workshop notes on [HANDCRAFTS](#) page of the web site for Leslie's excellent notes on felting.

### DEMOS and WORKSHOPS

We have some treats in the works for those of you who love the demos and workshops. Demos are usually just as the name connotes; a get-together where one or more members demonstrate either a technique or a product that we think will result in good sales at BB&B.

A workshop is hands-on. One or more members will first demonstrate the ins and outs of making a product and then will provide patterns, materials and guidance as you work through the construction of the product for the sale. In some cases, there is sufficient time to make one for yourself and one for the sale.

Some Mini Demos will take place after gatherings. Most Demos and Workshops will be free and if a fee is required to cover the cost of materials or venue, this fee will be as small as possible.

All Workshops will have online sign up with details here in the Monthly and in E-News and the web site Calendar.

Hope you are ready for more fun!



KNIT NOTES

**WHAT TO MAKE**

Knitted (primarily felted) bags sold amazingly well at the sale; 89% of our stock sold, so we're obviously doing something right. In fact, we'd like more!

A felted bag is a great project for less experienced knitters or those who may be rediscovering knitting after some time away because gauge doesn't usually matter and mistakes are easily hidden once the bag is felted. On the other hand, experienced knitters can find patterns with more difficult techniques such as intarsia and entrelac.



The first felted purse we sold is very simple, uses only one skein of yarn (Lopi or worsted such as Paton's Classic Wool, used doubled) and can be knit in 2 or 3 hours. Embellished with a knitted flower or two or some needle felting and completed with a closure, these purses always sell well at about \$25, providing a good return for time and materials used.

Get a kit or pattern at a gathering.

There are many, many patterns available on Ravelry.

At right is another easy pattern. It's free [HERE](#) and has only been made once for us.



At left is a more challenging pattern. It hasn't yet been made for our sale, so maybe you'd like to be the first to try it. Get the free pattern [HERE](#).

Over the years we've found wonderful patterns for bags, plus embellishment ideas, in books we've borrowed from the Library. Here are some of our favourites:

- Bags - A Knitter's Dozen
- Nicky Epstein's Fabulous Felted Bags
- Knitted Flowers by Nicky Epstein
- Felt Frenzy: 26 Projects for All Forms of Felting by Heather Brack and Shannon Okey.

Instructions on how to felt can be found in the Workshop Notes on [HANDCRAFTS](#). Use the password to access the page.

So check out the library and the web, and try some felted purses!



SEW WHAT?

At the sale we had more fabric bags than felted bags, but fewer sold (only 59%). We're hoping to up that percentage next year by providing some ideas to help make our bags irresistible!



[CRAFTSY](#) hosts web-based tutorials on sewing (among other topics). Two free courses - *Bag-Making Basics: Reversible Tote and Zipper Pouch* and *Bag-Making Basics: Drawstring Bag and Bucket*

*Bag* - cover some of the aspects that we think make a great bag:

- Fusible interfacing (Bucket Bag). We like fusible batting by Arno, to give substance to a bag
- Lining (Tote Bag), because unlined totes can't be sold for enough to be worthwhile
- Zippers (Zipper Pouch), because zippered pouches like these can be used as pockets in larger bags.

Patterns and instructions (PDFs) are also available with the courses.

We are eager to see what you think of these courses. If you try one, please tell us what you think at [message@ujmaaagrandmas.com](mailto:message@ujmaaagrandmas.com). Let us know too if you'd like us to set up a class where we get together and sew along with the videos.



We're hoping you will want to try out some of the wonderful patterns that can be found on-line. CRAFTSY has some very cute ones. Here's one example - the Rachel Purse.

There are also lots of FREE purse patterns. Check This [LINK](#) for some great ideas.

Finally, a word about fabrics. Most of our bags last year were made from cottons or other light fabrics.

Why not think as well about rich upholstery fabric or fancy taffeta for evening? Here are some examples from one of our very first sales to inspire you. Keep your eyes open at our April Fabric and Yarn Sale for just the right fabric.

