

HANDCRAFTS MONTHLY



*JANUARY
at a glance*

JANUARY 12 - Second Monday Gathering at Sewing World Gathering.

JANUARY 13 - Yarn Open House.

JANUARY 22 - Fourth Thursday Gathering at The Royal Canadian Legion.

JANUARY GATHERINGS

JANUARY 12

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.

JANUARY 22

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

Handcrafts Committee will finalize the 2015 Handcrafts Calendar at the January Committee meeting and we would love to hear from you about what to focus on.

We have designed a short survey - Yes, we love getting your feedback this way! - to enable you to tell us what you want by way of Workshops and Demos. Tell us about Knitting and Sewing and Other Handcrafts that interest you. Do you want to learn new skills? Do you want to upgrade your current skills? Do you want to practice what you know in a group environment? Do you have a skill you want to share?

Tell all by clicking [THIS LINK](#) and filling in the questionnaire. But do it now as we will be meeting early this month to build the calendar.

WHAT TO MAKE

This month we continue our feedback about what sells based on the results of 2014 BB&B with a focus on Felted and Fabric Bags and Purses.

This year was a great one for purses! There were not quite as many as last year - 204 compared to 230 in 2013 - but the percentage that we sold was much better - 83% this year vs 69% in 2013. In particular 79% of fabric bags sold vs 56% last year.

YARN OPEN HOUSE

If your yarn stash is getting low, come by 3028 Utah Drive NW on January 13 any time between 3:00 and 7:00 PM. You will find Leslie Buckle and Janice MacDonald with our yarn stash for both felted and non-felted projects. And plan to stay for tea if you can.

FELTED BAGS and PURSES

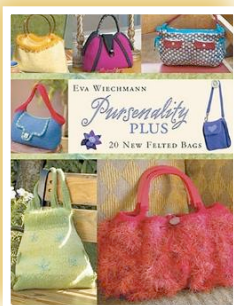
We thought we might have saturated the market for felted purses after ten years, but our sale results say NO. So let's keep making them.

We have quite a stash of 100% wool from last year's fabric sale and some donations since. If you need some, feel free to contact lesliejbuckle@gmail.com at any time or, if you are available on January 13, attend our Yarn Open House. See details in the calendar on the [HOME](#) page. We often have only one ball of a particular colour, but fortunately we have a couple of patterns for purses that take just this amount.

Remember that purses do not have to be big. Small purses sell just as well as the larger ones. The secret to an attractive purse often lies in the embellishments. A popular embellishment is two-dimensional needle felting. Just "Google" *needle felting embellishments* for some gorgeous examples. And you don't need to be an artist to create a great embellishment. Some of our best embellishments look just like doodles! Or find an interesting cookie cutter shape, fill it with roving and needle felt it in. This works remarkably well.

Another embellishment possibility is yarn embroidery. Even simple designs like x's and o's can look stunning. You can also duplicate stitch in contrasting colours either before or after felting. Both are very effective.

In addition to solid-colour purses with interesting embellishments, multi-coloured styles are very popular. You can try entrelac, stripes, houndstooth or herringbone patterns.

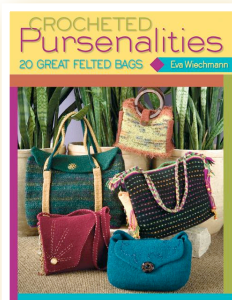


See the vertical striped tote in Pursenality Plus by Eva Wiechmann available at the public library or for your e-reader on line.

You will also find many other great pattern ideas in Eva's book.

Eva also has a felted purse book for crocheters.

Alternatively, if you need some tips on felting, refer to the notes provided by Leslie Buckle on the [PATTERNS](#) page. Leslie reviews all the steps to successful felting for both large and small projects.



FABRIC PURSES

The totes and handbags made by our members at the workshop using the *Design Your Own Handbag* class from [CRAFTSY](#) made a big impact on our fabric purse inventory. We were really proud of what our Members made during and following that workshop, so thanks so much to those who contributed!



You can sign up for this class and watch it on your own time. You will learn the basics of handbag construction including pockets, straps and loops. Brett supplies details for four different styles but the

fun is in modifying these basics to make something unique. You can get lots of inspiration from class participants' posted projects.

Looking towards next year's sale, here are some observations.

Solid colours or prints work equally well for totes and handbags especially if a contrasting solid fabric is used for pockets, loops and/or handles.

Chose sturdy fabrics with a firm hand or reinforce lighter fabrics with interfacing or fusible batting. Decofuse is a very firm interfacing and is available locally at some quilt shops. Or double up lighter interfacing to get a supple but firm hand.

Interlining is a great technique for added shape-holding properties. Use canvas or firm twill with good results.

Hardware makes a BIG impact. Use turn closures, zippers, studs, snaps, rings and/or hooks to add a bit of bling to a handbag. Inexpensive d-rings and studs are available in bulk at Tandy Leather. Locally, PacCana, located at 1916 27 Avenue NE, is a wonderful source of hardware, interfacing, zippers by the foot and zipper stops and slides at unbelievably low prices. Anyone can shop there so don't be fooled by the appearances.

Custom charms were added to all our fabric handbags made from the class. These were fun and often whimsical and added a note of "I'm just a bit special" to the finished bags.

And don't be hesitant to partner with another Member or Members to complete handbags. In the workshop we discovered that some individuals like making some parts more than others and together we made it fun for everyone by sharing the construction of the bits and pieces of the bags.