



HANDCRAFTS MONTHLY



*MARCH
at a glance*

MARCH 9 - Second Monday Gathering at Sewing World.

MARCH 18 - Knit in at Ria's.

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

MARCH 24 & 31 - Handbag Workshop

MARCH GATHERINGS

MARCH 9

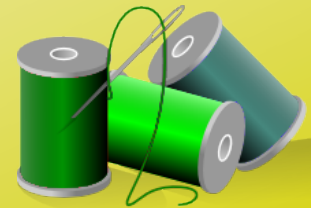
10:00 AM to noon at Sewing World in the upstairs classroom, 136 71 Ave. SE

If you wish, please bring along a snack to share. Remember to park in the rear and to mention us when you shop.

MARCH 26

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

The Legion provides this venue to us free. Do not bring food or beverages in to the Legion. These are available at their snack bar. Consider a food bank donation as a thank you.



NEWS FROM HANDCRAFTS COMMITTEE

KNIT-IN

Bring along your needles - or pins - or other portable project - and join other Members at Ria Meronek's for a casual afternoon of knitting and sharing tips and ideas on Wednesday March 18th, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, 116 Edgepark Villa NW. Please RSVP at 403-829-9773 (cell) or 403-547-1065 (land line) or Rmeronek@shaw.ca.

There is parking in the villa complex - along the fence usually works. Please do not park on both sides of the road as this blocks access for emergency vehicles. Or consider car pooling from the Superstore nearby.

WHAT TO MAKE

This month we continue feedback on what sells based on results of 2014 BB&B with a focus on Home Decor items. Check [HANDCRAFTS](#) for all products.

HANDBAG WORKSHOP - TWO DAYS

Come be part of a two-day, assembly team to craft more handmade handbags for BB&B.

Last year we had a great time following the instructions from *CRAFTSY, Design Your Own Handbag* class. Armed with these skills, we plan to make another bevy of beautiful bags. We will work both days from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM more or less and can accommodate 6 sewing mavens in addition to the workshop hostesses, Patty Cucman and Janice Meeking. Registrants will receive full directions etc when they register. All materials provided. Bring your own machine. Photo at top is an example of what we might make.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the two-day sew-fest.



HOME DECOR - WHAT SELLS

The category of Home Decor contains a wide variety of products. Barb Doll is the Home Decor custodian. Barb is ably assisted by Rose Besler (Crafter's Corner), Joan Benedict (In The Kitchen) and Donna Russell (All Things Christmas). We would like to tell you about some products that sell well and hopefully provide some guidance to help you create products that our customers can't wait to buy.

IN THE KITCHEN Pot Holders are always a good seller. We sell a variety of well made pot holders from interesting 100% cotton fabrics. Some have Insul-Bright and one layer of cotton batting and some have two layers of cotton batting. To find new ideas look up "pot holders to make" on the internet which will give many ideas and tutorials.

SCRUBBIES: Customers prefer the original crocheted pattern but we have also had some success with knitted ones. The patterns for both styles are on the web site [PATTERNS](#) page. We have none left so if you are looking for a sure thing, crochet scrubbies would be it.

DISHCLOTHS: Customers seem to prefer knitted dishcloths in darker and variegated cotton yarn in a variety of colors. Designer dishcloths in a variety of shapes and designs are also popular. Please roll, or tie your dishcloths in sets of three with interesting ribbon or yarn. Much easier for you to do a few as you make them than for us to do a few hundred!

APRONS: Aprons are good sellers in a variety of price ranges. Customers look for interesting, well made aprons in appealing fabrics that will wash and wear well. Darker fabrics sell very well; denim aprons are a good sellers as are reversible aprons. Add interest to aprons with the addition of contrasting pockets, trim, neck and waist ties. Panels can provide interest when cut apart and used as pockets or trim. Full aprons sell better than half aprons. Matching an apron with pot holders makes a great set. Again the internet is a great source of information.

ON THE TABLE:

Placemats - it is great to have a wide variety of well made cotton placemats with or without napkins. They can be in sets of 2, 4, or 6. Make a matching insulated table protector or pot holders from left over fabric. 100% cotton fabric and quilted with cotton batting to give them stability is preferred by most shoppers. Patterns and ideas can be found on the internet but remember that we need permission to sell products made from most commercial patterns. Check our list for those which we already have permission to use. But

if you find a pattern you love, ask the designer for permission to make and sell it. No one has yet said no. Mug mats are great way to use up pretty scraps. make them in sets or singles. Search "mug mats" on the internet for ideas and sizes.

Table runners, table toppers, insulated table protectors, and casserole carriers all sell well. Customers are looking for beautiful cotton fabrics in interesting designs and colors. They do require some quilting for stability but it can be as simple as rows of equally-spaced straight or curved stitches. Of course, if you love to free-motion quilt, that is even better.

Beverage themes - Coffee, Tea, Wine sell well. Any articles made in these themes sell well, be it placemats, runners, mug mats, tea cozies, coffee press covers, wine bags. Wine bags sell well and the ones made from upholstery fabric or denim with handles sell especially quickly. You can use denim fabric or blue jean legs with other jean parts being used for embellishment. You can also add stick-on rhinestones for glitz. The pattern is on the web site [PATTERNS](#) page.

WHAT IS IN OR ON YOUR BAG, DRAWER OR SUITCASE? This category sells well. We like to offer a variety of small bags, sets of zippered bags for men and women, luggage tags, small Kleenex holders, etc. Be creative. These are small projects so great fabrics can be used to good effect.

WRAP IT UP: We also sell all occasion gift bags made with interesting cotton fabrics and stunning ribbons. We usually sell all holiday themed articles in a variety of sizes, and shapes - table runners, or smaller table toppers or insulated table protectors. Any of the above items can be made in Christmas fabric and most Christmas items sell well.

If you are interested in making Christmas items we can sell runners, placemats, kitchen towels, felted or microwave bowls, insulated pot holders, wine bags, medium or large gift bags, market bags and advent calendars. If you have any other ideas for Christmas items make a few and let's see if they sell.

We are always open to new ideas to keep our inventory vibrant, interesting and current. We are low on inventory in all categories as we were very successful with last year's sales so there is great scope for creativity.

Thank you for all the work you do to make Home Decor a great success.

Submitted by Barb Doll and the Home Decor crew.