

Skeins on Main

428 S. Main St., Rochester, MI 48307 248-656-9300

www.skeinsonmain.com

Store Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We'll help you overcome your fear of needles.

In the Store and About Town

Someone's Having an Anniversary!

That's right – Skeins On Main (version 3.0) is turning 3! The anniversary actually falls on January 1, but this year we'll be celebrating on Sunday, January 22nd, from 11am until 3pm. We'll have all sorts of munchies (we know you'll work up an appetite with all the shopping we have planned for you). Madeline Tosh will be shipping a HUGE assortment of yarns to arrive just in time, we'll have tons of sales (as we always do for this event), and free prizes throughout the day. Don't miss this one! We promise you'll be pleasantly surprised!

Snow Policy



We (meaning I, the author of the newsletter) HATE discussing this four-letter word, but we must. It's that time of the year, and in Michigan it means... S-N-O-W. Yuck (another four-letter word!). The snow policy for Skeins this year will be just as it has been for many years. Because so many of us travel longer distances to get to the shop, and because safety for all of us – both our guests and our team members – is so important to us, we make the choice to close the shop if

Rochester Schools close due to the snow. We do not follow their schedule for any other reason (including when it's too cold for the buses to start). If the weather turns and it's safe to come in, we'll open the shop late. If the snow starts to look bad in the afternoon and we make the decision to close for the evening, students in the affected classes will receive a phone call. Please verify the phone number we have on file and remember to always check the website for opening and closing updates.

Jenna's Retreat

Each year, Lori offers a retreat to celebrate her mom's life and birthday. This year is certainly no different. The event will take place on Sunday, March 18th, from 11:30am until 4pm. Lunch is included, and Lori will teach for the duration of the event. We'll offer several prizes to those who attend, as well as plenty of laughs, a private sale, and lots of fun! The cost of the event is a \$40 tax-deductible donation to the Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan, a charity that George and Lori believe Jenna would have loved and supported. She certainly adored her dogs, as so many of us do. To participate in this annual event, just drop off your donation to the shop and add your name to the list. We're

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sorry, but we're only able to accept cash or checks for this event. Spaces fill quickly in this crowd favorite, so don't delay!

Knit Michigan

We think it's pretty safe to say that everyone has been affected by cancer in some way during their lifetime. Whether you've been diagnosed, or it's been a loved one, we've all been touched. Every year, Skeins participates in an event known as "Knit Michigan." This fundraising event to benefit cancer research takes place on Saturday, February 4th, from 10am until 4pm. Attendees have the opportunity to browse displays from several Michigan shops (and purchase from them, too!), as well as take classes from many local and national instructors on a variety of topics. And it all benefits organizations like the Karmanos Cancer Institute, the Rose Cancer Center, Gilda's Club, and others. Want to help? Plan to attend the event. Take a class (you have to sign up ahead of time). But they need more. They need items to be auctioned off, as well as chemo caps knit from soft yarns. If you'd like more information on how you can get involved, please visit www.knitmichigan.org. Any donations can be dropped off at Skeins On Main. We're happy to forward them for you.

Focus on Fiber

We get asked many times each week about organic yarns. What yarns are organic, why are they organic, what requirements must be met, and many other questions. So let's chat about it this month...

Organic yarns are made without man-made chemicals, including fertilizers, etc. In the case of animal fibers, the animal must be fed only organic feed and raised under organic standards. In short, it's very similar to the organic groceries we buy.

To claim a yarn as organic, strict requirements must be met and expensive licensing is mandatory. They look at the environment where the fiber is grown, processed, and dyed. For animals, they look at the environment they live in, what they're fed (and it must be thoroughly tested), how the hair is removed, and then how it's dyed. They also look at what's done with the leftover dyes.

What we've found is that many of the yarns we now carry are truly organic but haven't gone through the licensing due to the expense of it all. So how do you know? Simple... You don't. That's a terrible answer, but it's true. Too often we're unsure about whether or not yarns are organic. Through questioning some of our vendors, we've found several that should be labeled organic but aren't in order to save you, the consumer, money. That means they lose out when it comes to the eco-conscious consumer who is looking specifically for organic yarns, with labelling that reflects the standards that are met.

What it all boils down to is that we have to ask questions and be aware.

Lace Scarf/Shawl Workshop



You can choose whether you'd prefer the shawl or the scarf with Kristen on Saturday, February 11 from 10am-12 noon. Done out of

Three Pines Studio gorgeous hand-dyed wool, students who take this class will learn the true art of lace knitting. This includes things like reading a chart, picking up a missed yarn over in the row below, and much more. Scarf knitters will learn to graft two halves together. There are many things to be learned in this quick project. Class is \$20 plus the cost of materials.



Ella Knit-Along



Internationally-known knitwear designer Nora Bellows (known to many of you as "Noni") is hosting a blog-based knit-along for her Ella Rediscovered

Coat (check out the website – no pictures really do this sweater justice!) and Skeins On Main just couldn't resist getting involved. Each Monday, beginning on January 16th, Nora will post "What To Do This Week with Ella," featuring weekly goals, tweaks, and innovations on the original coat pattern that will only be shared in this knit-along blog. Everyone begins with the same Ella pattern (available at Skeins, of course!), but then customizes it using their own chosen "tweaks." Everyone ends up with an original!

To support the knit-along, Skeins will offer a table on Saturday mornings at 9:30. The group can

stay as long as they want, and Lori will be available for the first 30 minutes to answer any questions. Everything you need to get started, including guidance on yarn and color selections, is listed in Nora's blog at www.nonipatterns.com, but also at Skeins On Main. Remember when selecting your yarn that some of the "tweaks" along the way may increase your yardage requirements. Nora recommends you purchase an extra 250-1000 yards to accommodate your selections.

Knit, Swirl is BACK!!



This gorgeous, one-of-a-kind sweater has sure gotten a lot of attention around the shop! So, by

popular demand, Sue has decided to offer it one more time. This time will be on Saturdays, January 28 (from 9:30-2 with a break for lunch), then Feb 25, March 24, and April 14 from 10am until noon. Cost is just \$50, and students will learn all sorts of new techniques. You can do any pattern in the book (or you could do as several of us have and choose multiples.... We're so bad!). Please choose your materials prior to class and call to sign up – it'll fill quickly!

Socials With Sharon

Some of you may remember Sharon Brock from way back in the day when she worked at Skeins as part of our sales team (this is WAY back in the day!). We're very pleased to tell you she's back, but this time in a new capacity. Sharon has regular classes, but she's also available for a social every Tuesday from 12-2pm (or you can sign up for all 6 for \$50). You know what that means – bring your project and she'll help you out. The cost is only \$6/hour and you can just drop in for this one.

Winter Classes

This is a complete list of classes offered. The instructors shown in bold have openings as of January 13, 2012.

Classes run 6 weeks and have a cost of \$50. Students receive 10% off all yarn and needle purchases during their session. The winter session ends February 18, 2012.

Monday

9:30 – 11:30 **Cris / Lori**
 12:00 – 2:00 Lori
 5:00 – 7:00 Lori / **Karen**
 7:00 – 9:00 Lori / Sue

Tuesday

9:30 – 11:30 **Lori**
 12:00 – 2:00 **Sharon**
 1:30 – 3:30 Dana
 5:00 – 7:00 Dana / **Sharon**
 7:00 – 9:00 Dana / **Mary**

Wednesday

9:30 – 11:30 **Cris**
 10:00 – 12:00 Dana
 12:00 – 2:00 Cris
 4:00 – 5:00 **Young People**
 5:00 – 7:00 **Lori / Dana**
 7:00 – 9:00 Lori / Dana

Thursday

9:30 – 11:30 **Karen**
 10:00 – 12:00 Dana
 12:00 – 2:00 **Karen**
 5:00 – 7:00 **Karen**

Friday

9:30 – 11:30 **Lori**
 12:00 – 2:00 Lori

Saturday

10:00 – 12:00 Lori
 12:30 – 2:30 Lori

Events-at-a-Glance

Anniversary Party

January 22, 11am-3pm

Ella Knit-Along

Saturdays, 9:30-??

Jenna's Retreat - \$40

March 18, 11:30am-4pm

Winter Class Registration –

going on now

Winter Classes Begin – Jan 9

Open Knitting – Thursdays 6-9pm (no charge) (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE – more knitting time!!)

Upcoming Workshops

Socials with Dana - \$6/hour

Wednesdays, 1-3pm:
 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1,
 2/8, 2/15, 2/29

Saturdays 10-12noon
 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/21

Socials with Cris \$6/hour

2/22 9:30am – 12:30pm
 2/25 10am-noon Young

People's Social

Socials with Sharon - \$6/hour

Tuesdays, 12-2pm:
 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31,
 2/7, 2/8, 2/22

Beg. Knitting w/ Karen \$20

1/21 10am-12noon

Lace Shawl/Scarf \$20

2/11 10am – 12 noon

Knit/Swirl Help - \$6/hour

1/28 2 – 4pm

*Workshop samples are on display at the shop

Do you have a birthday this month? Visit the shop and mention it to receive 20% off one entire purchase of in-stock yarn as our gift to you. Happy Birthday! All discounted purchases are final sale and discount may not be combined with any other offer.

A Line From Lori...

We all know I'm an emotional person. But this time of year is especially emotional for me. Not because I get the winter blues. I honestly don't have time for those anymore. It's because of our anniversary, and the time I take to reflect on the last few years.

I can honestly tell you that owning Skeins has been one of the greatest joys of my life. I used to think my life was incomplete without children (I wasn't counting my husband as a child at that time... I've gotten smarter now and he counts!). There was just something missing. I no longer feel that way. In fact, it's hard to believe I ever did. Don't get me wrong – I'd still love to have them. But the truth is that my life is incredibly full of joy and fun. It's because of all of you. Every time someone comes in and says, "I just love it here," I feel such pride and happiness. I don't deserve the credit I get, though. The truth is that everyone who visits should get all of that credit. You all make Skeins what it is. You all make it a happy, fun, exciting place to be. From my entire team and I, thank you. It's a pleasure to walk in the door each day, and rewarding to walk out, too. Thank you for continuing to support us, and for sharing cups of coffee and smiles with us each day. Happy Anniversary!

- Lori

Take Charge of Your Skeins

Newsletter – To subscribe or unsubscribe to our email Newsletter, go to:

<http://lists.skeinsonmain.com/mailman/listinfo/newsletter>

If at any time during the month you'd like a newsletter, you can go to our website

(www.skeinsonmain.com) and download a copy.