

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

Skeins on Main

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

www.skeinsonmain.com

Store Hours:

Closed Sunday

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.

Events at Skeins

Week of February 12, 2017

Spring Retreat—It's Happening!

When we didn't plan a fall retreat, we received A LOT of feedback from you, indicating that you'd not only like to have the retreats back, but you'd like a spring retreat, too. So... Here we go... We've scheduled a spring retreat. There's no guarantee that there will also be a fall retreat, despite rumors, but there's also no guarantee that there won't.

And now that we've announced the Spring Retreat, we're also receiving LOTS of questions about it. The easiest way to address all of them in one place is, of course, right here. So, here we go!

Q: How much does it cost:

A: \$295, which includes your bed in a shared room, meals (3 on Friday, 3 on Saturday, 1 on Sunday), and up to 6 hours of classes.

Q: What are the classes?

A: We're still working on completing the samples, but this time we'll be focusing more on longer classes with more time to focus on the technique you're learning as opposed to shorter classes and more of them. We'll offer classes in Color Theory, Mosaic Knitting, Crochet, Entrelac, No-Sew Zippers, and a cowl that uses multiple new stitches.

Q: Can I take more than six hours?

A: Always. If it works out with your schedule, you can certainly purchase additional hours.

Q: What's the date for retreat?

A: April 7-9, 2017

Q: When do I need to sign up?

A: You'll need to reserve your room and pay the deposit of \$150 before February 28, 2017. The retreat balance will be due by March 15, 2017 (this is later than originally announced).

Q: I don't have a roommate(s).

A: That's ok! We have plenty of people looking for someone to share a room with. Just let us know—we'll see if we can hook you up.

Q: I want a room to myself. Can I do that?

A: Yes, but you'll need to pay the registration for that second person. Our retreats are essentially non-profit in an effort to provide you with an additional learning opportunity (and a weekend away). As a result, the budget doesn't allow for empty beds.

Q: When can I sign up for classes?

A: Give us about two more weeks. People who have already registered at that time will receive a chance to register first. Then we'll open it up to new registrants if there are spaces remaining.

Q: What if I want to learn the techniques but not do the projects?

A: No problem! We've selected projects that we think you'll be interested in, but that certainly doesn't mean we're right or that everyone will like that project. We'll have

Project ideas using the same techniques, or you can choose just to play. It's retreat—we're relaxed and easy!

Q: What kind of food will be served, and can you accommodate special dietary requirements?

A: That's easy—the good kind, of course! The retreat center is providing all meals so we won't have to worry about that this time (what a relief!). They're very experienced with dietary restrictions and can accommodate whatever you require. Just let us know when you sign up so we can give them a head's up.

Q: I need to snack, and wine is a requirement. Can I bring both?

A: Absolutely! The cabins have full kitchens, so you can bring anything you want, within reason. We'll all be sharing the space, so try to keep it limited (for example, we probably shouldn't plan to fill the entire fridge with wine).

Q: What are the beds like?

A: It's a camp during the summer and a retreat center the rest of the year, so they're pretty camp-like. You'll need to bring bedding and toiletries (including soap and shampoo).

Q: I have other questions that you didn't address.

A: Great! Give us a call—we're happy to answer any of them.

Q: Can I register over the phone?

A: Yep! 248-656-9300.

Xandy Peters is Coming to Skeins!

We couldn't be more excited to announce the first of many national instructors/designers that are in the works for Skeins. Xandy Peters, the creator of the fascinating "Stacked" Increases and Decreases techniques, will be visiting Skeins March 7-9. She'll be bringing her friend, Angela, the owner and dyer extraordinaire for Mollygirl Knits, with her, which means another trunk show! This is going to be quite a week at Skeins!

The festivities will begin on Tuesday night at 7pm as we gather to say hello and meet Xandy and Angela. This is an exclusive, ticketed event, so the shop will be closed during this time (classes will continue to run for registered students only—no drop-ins). Tickets will cost \$20 each, and will entitle you to a chocolate tasting, featuring chocolatiers from around the Metro area (Lori has such a difficult job some days...), Knitting Bingo that'll feature amazing (and some yummy!) prizes, and a meet-and-greet with the girls. One of the Bingo prizes will be an entry into the class of your choice with Xandy. Ooh-la-la! And since we'll be tasting chocolate... really... what goes better with chocolate than wine, of course?



On Wednesday, Xandy will teach the Loaded Taco Shawl class, featuring four colors and the faux crochet technique that she's made so popular. This class will run from 9-3, with a two-hour lunch break. The

class cost is \$60.

On Wednesday evening, Xandy will offer a class on her Simple Stacked Stitch Scarf. This class will introduce you



to the world of stacked increases and decreases, as well as some truly amazing art that can be created without stranding or intarsia.

This is definitely a high-impact technique, meaning that you'll make a huge impact with the look, while not doing as much work as it appears you've done. You'll be fascinated with each stitch you create, with each movement of the yarn and fabric, and with each new lesson you learn. You've seen the cowl



shown here around the shop... This is the Mixed Up Mystery Cowl by Xandy (knitted by Sue), and it's certainly gotten more than its fair share of attention. This is just

one of the many possibilities using these stitches. For those who are looking to open up the world of knitting to something new and incredibly creative, this is the perfect way to do it. This class will be offered twice. We'll offer it on Wednesday evening from 6-9pm, and again on Thursday from 9:30am-12:30pm. The cost is \$45. Materials should NOT include cotton yarn or any variety of wood needles.

Registration for Tuesday night and/or any of Xandy's classes is available now by calling the shop or stopping in.



Mollygirl Knits Trunk Show

Xandy and her friend Angela have started touring together, so we're bringing

both of them to you. How could we possibly deny you the chance to see Angela's remarkable yarns? So... what the heck! The more, the merrier, right?

Mollygirl Yarns feature hand-dyed wools and wool blends that are all inspired, in some way, by music. She has a huge array of colorways, but also quite the selection of fibers, too. There's even a chainette-constructed yarn—something we've never before seen from a hand-dyer. We're not sure she'll have it with her, but it's something we plan to bring in for the fall, so this could be your advance opportunity!



As mentioned in the last article, we'll be doing a ticketed event for Tuesday, March 7th. This will, of course, allow you to also get your hands on the Mollygirl yarns before anyone else does. Woo-hoo! Let's be honest—we LOVE getting first dibs on yarn, right? Especially when it's something we haven't seen before. The yarns will also be in the shop on Wednesday and Thursday before they're packed up for their next destination.



One last, fun fact for you... So far, we're the only store in Michigan to carry this brand new line! The only one!! Be sure to attend the premier to see as many colors as possible in person, and to be one of the first to get your hands on these luscious yarns. You're going to love us for this! And if you're really lucky, maybe you'll win yarn during the bingo games. That's a hint about prizes!

HEDGEHOG IS COMING!

.. And we couldn't possibly be more excited! Hedgehog Fibers is a pretty exclusive, hand-dyed yarn out of Ireland.



We know of only two other stores in Michigan that are currently able to carry it, and we're so excited to be one of them! It's not here just yet, but it will be within a couple of weeks, so just hang tight. Check out Stephen West on Ravelry—he uses A LOT of their yarns! Woo-hoo!! Lori



has been doing a happy dance since the day we were approved to carry it, so you know it has to be special. In fact, it's SO special that we're planning a launch party. That's right—we'll have a party just to celebrate the arrival of this yarn. Yeah, ok, maybe it's just a really good excuse for a party... :) Are you going to complain??



**Wine and WIPs—
Our Own Yarn Club!**



In case you missed it in the last newsletter, Skeins now has their very own yarn club!! For each “month” (that means for each delivery month, which will be February, May, August, and November), we’ll have a hand-dyer create at least one color that’s exclusive to Yarn Club members. That color will remain exclusive for a minimum of two months after it’s release. A project pattern will be included, along with other suggested patterns just in case you don’t like what we chose. In the event you want more, there will be a few additional skeins available each month, available only to club members.

Each kit will be released on the third Friday of the month (from 7-9pm) at an exclusive “Pick Up Party.” Members can come to the shop, pick up their kits, and stay for a special demonstration of any techniques that may be new or tricky for that project. And, just in case that’s not enough, members will want to be on the lookout for additional exclusive events throughout the year. Come on... this is Skeins! You don’t think we’d do “just the basics,” do you? Can’t come pick up your kit? That’s ok, too. For just \$7, we’ll send it to you. Each kit will contain at least two hanks (or the equivalent—if you need multiple colors we may break down skeins, which would provide additional savings to you) of hand-dyed yarn, a special gift, a pattern, other pattern suggestions, and a seat at the Pick Up Party. Never worry—we won’t be sticking with just one weight or one hand-dyer for all four months. Each year will include at least three weights of yarn and four different hand-dyers.

Can’t wait to join??? Us either!! All you have to do is stop in (or you can call) and fill out a simple questionnaire about your likes and dislikes and choose which level you’d like to sign up for.

One month is \$70, two months is \$135, or you can sign up for all four for just \$250! Each kit has a value of at least \$100, including the class that will be offered with it, so you’ll automatically save \$30 minimum off each one. Now that’s a deal!! A very limited number of memberships is still available for the February delivery on the 17th, so if you hurry you might get lucky. You can sign up for the next delivery any time before April 15.

Fiberstory Trunk Show

We think it’s impossible for us to get enough of Sarah from Fiberstory and her incredibly gorgeous yarns. We KNOW it’s impossible to carry them all, in all the colors, all the time (primarily because they usually sell before we even get them onto the walls). So this time we get the best of both worlds. Sarah is coming to visit on Saturday, March 4th, with a trunk show! That means she’ll be bringing a variety of her yarns and colorways for you to choose from. It’s a great chance to see it all. And if there’s something you want that she doesn’t have with her, you can always order it. The trunk show will run from 9:30am until 4pm. We’re very sorry, but, as with any trunk show, we’re unable to offer any discounts, loyalty, or returns on purchases made. Be sure to get there early for the best possible selection, and remember that all Sarah’s colors are available in all her fibers, so almost anything is possible. The trunk show will be located up on the Fingering wall, right by the winder. We apologize in advance, but it’s very unlikely that we’ll be able to wind any yarn on the day of the trunk show.



Two-Color Brioche Series



Brioche is one of those techniques (no, we’re not referring to the bread, although that’s almost as yummy) that we just never seem to be able to get enough of. It fascinates us, as the fabric seems to move beneath our fingers, transforming two colors into something so unique and stunning that we almost can’t believe it’s knit. Maybe that’s why so many of us fear it. Or maybe it’s just a fear of having to learn it too quickly, of not really getting a handle on it before we’re sent out of the class to master it on our own. Sue is changing that.

Beginning on Saturday, March 4th (conveniently timed with the Fiberstory trunk show), and running for three consecutive weeks, she’ll offer a Brioche series that will give you the opportunity to truly master this technique. The classes will focus on knitting swatches that begin with the basics and work up to the more difficult aspects, like increasing, decreasing, and cabling all within the brioche fabric. A Mystery Knit Along will also be included to help each participant practice and hone their skills each week. Class will be from 9:30am until 1:30pm, with a one-hour break for lunch.



All participants will have homework to do each week. While it won’t be a large amount, it is crucial for keeping up with the rest of the class. Cost of this class series is \$50. The purchase of “Knitting Fresh Brioche” by Nancy Marchant is strongly recommended but not required. The book is in stock for class participants. A list of supplies is available at the shop when you register. Because of the nature of this class, space is very limited. Please stop in or call to sign up.

Please note that images shown are intended only as examples of brioche.

Come hide away from the world with us...

That's right – a WHOLE DAY to sit, knit, and socialize (and hide away from the pressures of the outside world)! Beginning in February, we'll offer a day of knitting during each of our class break weeks. The first one is Tuesday, February 21. Lunch will be brought in for everyone from one of our outstanding local restaurants as they sit and enjoy a day of knitting from 9:30am until 3:30pm. An instructor will be on-hand throughout the day to help with any pitfalls, and coffee, water, and snacks are always available should you suddenly find yourself needing a sugar fix or more caffeine to invigorate those fingers. The cost is only \$40, but of course space is limited. You can call the shop or stop in to sign up. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. We'll do our best to accommodate.



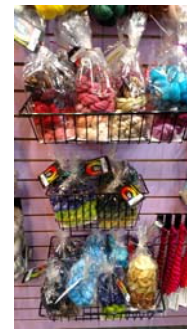
Shepherd's Wool Fingering Weight

Walking through Skeins, it's pretty obvious that we really love our Shepherd's Wool. We carry every color of the worsted and the superwash, many hanks at any given time of the Crazy Mill Ends, and now we're adding to the collection



by bringing in the Fingering weight of this gorgeous wool. We don't have all the colors yet, so be sure to call if you're looking for something specific. And if you're not in a hurry, let us

know—we're happy to order it for you. In the event you're knitting something small and want a fingering that'll felt, this is your yarn. Shepherd's Wool is well-known for the gorgeous fabric that results from felting it, and the fingering is no different. That makes it incredibly versatile while holding the color throughout. You won't be disappointed with this one.



Frolicking Feet Gradient Kit

Done Roving has out-"Done" themselves this time. These stunning kits contain six one-hundred yard mini hanks of their hand-dyed, fingering-weight wool, all combined to create true gradient kits. We received eleven combinations, each one more beautiful than the last. As much as we tried, photography can only capture them so well—you'll want to see these beauties in person and snatch yours up before someone else does. We see them used primarily for shawls and cowls, but a baby sweater (maybe the Surprise Baby from Elizabeth Zimmerman?) would certainly be beautiful, too. Each kit retails for \$48, and these hanks CAN be wound on the winder. Lori is currently working on a cowl with a geometric design that you're going to just LOVE for these kits. Look for it in the shop soon. "Soon" in Lori Time might mean a couple of weeks. She kinda runs on her own clock...



We're Adding A New Class!

The time has come to add yet another daytime class to our extensive list. Kate, who also teaches on Tuesdays from 5-7 and Fridays from 9:30-11:30, will be adding a Tuesday afternoon class (from 1-3pm) beginning with the next session (February 28—April 4). For more information on our six-week classes, please check out the very last page of the newsletter, in the right-hand column.

Alpaca Sox

If you have sensitive little tootsies that need to be spoiled, then Alpaca Sox is definitely the yarn for your next pair of socks. Alpaca is inherently warm and soft, so when you pair that with a kettle-dyed look to the yarn, you really can't go wrong. The fiber content is 60% alpaca, 20% merino wool, and 20% nylon, giving it the durability it needs for socks, but also the stability it needs for things like baby sweaters, hats, mittens, and all those lovely things that call for something both beautiful and soft. And just for you... we brought in THIRTY colors of this one, so there's something for everyone. Want to use it for shawls? Ok, you can do that, too. :) There's just enough of a halo to make it appear almost mohair-ish, but not enough to lose all stitch definition. Really, this is pretty much a perfect yarn.



St. Patty's Day Hours

With an Irish bar right down the street, things can sometimes be a little chaotic on the evening of St. Patrick's Day in downtown Rochester. But not this year! Thanks to our big parking deck and the event being on a Friday this year, there's no need to change our hours. Woo-hoo!!! We'll be open 9:30am-4pm, just like always.

Cirrus

This gorgeous, poncho-ish (but with sleeves) sweater was knit by Sue using 2 strands of Villa (or Vail—the undyed version) held together. She used eleven hanks for the larger size. Not familiar with the yarn? That's ok... We just know you're familiar with Chateau, right? That's the silk/alpaca, chunky yarn that we did the Sasha poncho out of (brown and blue with the coolest ceramic buttons). It's the fingering weight of that yarn. Trust us—just touch it and you'll fall in love. The pattern is available in the shop.



Babyboo is Back

Knit One, Crochet Too is the fabulous company that brings us one of our favorite yarns, Babyboo. Some of you may have noticed the stock on this one getting low recently. That's because the company was sold and moved to Florida just before Christmas. The new owner has been busy establishing contact with the mills, arranging for deliveries, and getting herself organized. That's happened now, so most colors are finally back in stock. There are still a few on backorder, including white, but we're hoping she'll be fully up and running by the middle of March. In the meantime, let's just focus on color instead of black or white. :)



Dream In Color Unique Hanks

Ooooooh la la!!! We've just received four different weights of Dream In Color yarn, a hand-dyed knitters' dream out of Arizona! The hanks are all unique, which means that while they may resemble colors that the company usually offers, they aren't quite that colorway. Sometimes



unique hanks are just a little more intense than the "normal" color, or sometimes

someone forgot to put one of the colors into the dye bath but it came out so pretty that they offered it to sell anyway as a unique hank. These are rare opportunities, and each hank of yarn is definitely large enough for a small project. The weight choices are DK, Worsted, Aran (that's just fancy for "heavy worsted"), and Chunky.



Top This! Hats Are Back In Stock

... and with some of the CUTEST new styles, including some (the butterfly, for example) with SPARKLY yarn! You really need to come check these out! As always, we know they won't last long, but they're so cute to look at while they're here! And just in case you're not familiar, these little hats come with a "pom pom" for the top that happens to be a critter of some sort. The ball of yarn is enough to make a child's hat or even a little "Buddy Blanket". The hat pattern is included on the yarn ball wrapper, and we have the blanket pattern available if you'd prefer that (it's free with the yarn purchase, too). The best part? You can knit them in a day or two!

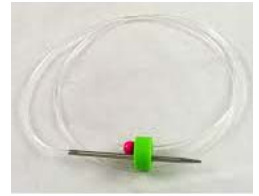
Quick-Locking Stitch Markers

You're probably wondering about us right now, using an entire article in the newsletter for locking stitch markers, and that's ok... If we're being honest, which we try always to be, then we're a little worried about us, too. But here's the thing—these aren't your regular, every day stitch markers. We LOVE locking markers, right? These are a little different. For starters, they're thinner... The plastic is actually a little thinner, making them easier to knit around. And look at them—they're all squiggly! That makes them stay in your work better without shifting around. As for the "quick-locking" part... Yep, they really are easier to lock and unlock with one hand for those times when you REALLY don't want to put your work down but you need to get a marker in there quickly (like maybe when you're trying to mark a dropped stitch that you're holding onto for dear life?). Lori's been using them, and she seems to like them. So while they arrived in a limited quantity, you can probably bet we'll be getting more soon.



Circular Stitch Holders

This is another one of those things we weren't so sure about, but Lori has a thing for new gadgets... She just NEEDS to have them. These, as we've learned, are kinda cool. Ok, maybe they're pretty cool. They're like a giant circular needle cord, with a tiny little knitting needle (don't try to use it for knitting—it definitely doesn't work well for that) on one end that makes it easier to slip your stitches onto it, then a stopper that you put the needle through when you're done so your stitches don't come off. "Why?" you ask? Simple. Have you ever needed to slip an "in-the-round" project onto a holder? You need to use several, right? Or what about a top-down sweater that you want to try on? In the past, we'd wish you luck and need to either tell you to slip it onto scrap yarn or sell you several stitch holders. But these little holders make it all better. They come in a couple different lengths. We recommend you add at least one to your gadgets bag—you'll be really glad you did.



"Knotes" and "Crotes"

"Knotes" and "Crotes" knitting and crochet note cards are perfect for you or the knitters and/or crocheters in your life. Each set comes with eight cards; two of each design shown. All cards are blank inside, and envelopes are included. And... they're environmentally friendly! Each card is printed in the USA on 30% post-consumer waste card stock. Thing of it as your "good deed" for the day. Each pack retails for just \$9.



SURPRISE!

Lori is starting to kinda go a little nuts lately... Which only means good things for you! Once each week, she'll be running a special of some sort. Some weeks it may be a free gift with purchase. Some weeks it may be an entry into a drawing for something A.MAZ.ING. Some weeks it may be an unexpected sale that we announce on Facebook. Some weeks it may be a deep discount on a particular yarn. You just never know what you might get, but you definitely want to pay attention to the website (which is STILL getting overhauled) and Facebook. And maybe just drop in. You never know when you'll be handed a free gift just for making a purchase, a coupon for a future purchase, double loyalty points... The sky is the limit!

Snow Policy

Sometimes it takes a shovel over the head or, in this case, into the snow, to remind us to talk about the snow policy. So here it is... If we're canceling classes or closing the shop due to snow, we will post it on the website and on Facebook. We'll also make every effort to contact all class members to let them know. In the past we've gone according to the school closings, but it just seems to be too confusing if we open mid-way through the day, so hopefully this will alleviate any confusion.



Loyalty Program

A few of you may have noticed that we're no longer offering our birthday discounts. Instead, we've replaced it with a much better program. Everyone in our computer system (that means you REALLY want to be in there) is automatically signed up for our new loyalty program. That means that with each purchase you make (except sale yarn or trunk shows), you'll receive loyalty points that can be used on your next purchase. They add up quickly, and you can choose to use them at any time. Just ask the sales associate how many points you have accumulated and she'll be happy to let you know.

many points you have accumulated and she'll be happy to let you know. Then you can apply them, or save them up for something really big!

Punch Cards

Punch Cards are always available at Skeins and will expire one year from the date you purchased them.



Punch cards are used for drop-in classes at Skeins, but if you'd rather not commit to 9 hours, you can always purchase drop-in classes hourly for \$6. Punch cards are available in the following increments:

- \$50 for 9 hours
- \$80 for 15 hours
- \$110 for 21 hours

Punch cards are generally kept on file in the shop (if you really want to, you can keep it yourself, but please know we won't be responsible if it's lost or stolen). Please be sure to take note of the drop-in schedule, as they can only be used for drop-in classes and may not be redeemed toward workshops or special events. Our current drop-in schedule (for the Holidays) is listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Art at Skeins

Did you know that Skeins also offers art classes? On Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings, Gerri Boyle teaches multi-medium art classes. Students are asked to start with pencil drawings for their first project, then are able to tackle all sorts of other media as their experience level grows.



Art classes are \$65 per month, with four classes each month and a \$5 discount if you sign up at least one week prior to the start of the month. Signup can be done at any time (for example, you could sign up for December now if you should so choose). Classes are held on Wednesdays from 12-2pm Thursday evenings from 6-8pm.

Classes at Skeins

Winter is here, so many of us are now spending more time indoors, maybe enjoying the warmth of a fireplace and a warm beverage. For knitters or crocheters, it's only natural to spend more time with yummy yarn, some needles or hooks, and relaxing under a blanket. Then it happens. You get stuck. That's when you think, "I should have signed up for that class!" Don't worry—it's not too late! Classes are \$50 for the six-week session, and students enjoy a 10% discount on all in-stock yarn purchases during their session. Classes shown in gray are full. Call the shop or stop in and you can be signed up in just minutes. With all of our six-week classes, you're invited to work on whatever you'd like, at a pace you're comfortable with. Our next session is February 27 through April 8.

- Monday, 9:30-11:30am w/Melissa
- Monday, 12noon-2pm w/ Lori
- Monday, 5-7pm w/ Lori
- Monday, 7-9pm w/ Lori
- Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am w/ Lori
- Tuesday, 1-3pm w/ Kate
- Tuesday, 5-7pm w/ Kate
- Tuesday, 7-9pm w/ Jen
- Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am w/ Melissa
- Wednesday, 12-2pm w/ Melissa
- Wednesday, 5-7pm w/ Lori
- Wednesday, 7-9pm w/ Sue
- Wednesday, 7-9pm w/ Lori
- Thursday, 9:30-11:30am w/ Melissa
- Thursday, 12-2pm w/ Melissa
- Thursday, 4:30-6pm Young People's
- Friday, 9:30-11:30 w/ Trish
- Saturday, 9:30-11:30am w/ Lori
- Saturday, 12:30-2:30pm w/ Lori

Events At A Glance

- Yarn Club Pick Up Party
2/17, 7-9pm
- All-Day Hideaway, \$40
2/21, 9:30am-3:30pm
- Fiberstory Trunk Show
3/4, 9:30am-4pm
- Mollygirl Yarns Trunk show
3/7-3/9 (reg business hours)
- Xandy Peters
(see article for times/classes)
- Spring Retreat, \$295
4/7-4/9