



# SHALL WE KNIT?

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I really don't want to stress anyone but have you looked at the calendar lately? Christmas is just around the corner. Yes I know it's only the beginning of November but if you are a Maker you know how quickly the time goes.

I have multiple things on the needles for the little people in my family and sewing plans for some of the bigger people and then there are all the other ideas in my head. And you know that Christmas tree skirt that every year I say I want to make?? Yup this is NOT the year for it. A new Grand-baby is also due any day and that keeps sidetracking me. And then there are the mitts - I LOVE mitts - fingers and fingerless - LOVE THEM! And so I want to knit them all. I find I am having to prioritize what needs to get down interspersed with a little of "I want to knit this now". We shall see where we get to.



But in the meantime we have come up with a few plans to help with your Christmas stress.

- **A Trunk Show!!** Yup, all that gorgeous colour that you see at the knitting shows by a talented local dyer will be set up at the shop on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Come out and buy something pretty for knitting friends or treat yourself. Dyer name to be announced shortly
- **Holiday Help** - come to this drop-in session and get the help you need to finish up projects for gifting, choose gifts for new and experienced fibre fans, pick up a quick-finish kit to whip up a last-minute handmade present. We will have a sign in sheet when you come so we can help every one in a timely manner. No charge to attend or get assistance but we'll have a "Help Their Holidays" jar out for your donations and proceeds will go to **Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region** (<http://www.wcswr.org/>).
- **Knitting Registry** - come in and wander around and fill out a little card that we will keep on file. List yarns, needles, books or whatever you like and then tell your family that you are registered and then we will help them find that perfect gift for you.
- **Retreat** - we still have a few spots available for our knitting retreat in January. There is information on our website and down further in this newsletter. Why don't you hint strongly to someone how much you would like to find a gift card for the retreat under the tree?



## KATE ATHERLEY IS BACK!

Kate is coming for a weekend of teaching December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kate is Knitty.com's Managing Technical Editor, and a seasoned designer and teacher of all things knitterly. Her latest book, 'Knit Mitts: Your Hand-y Guide to Knitting Mittens and Gloves' was released in fall 2017, and the first printing sold out in record time.

'Custom Socks: Knit to Fit Your Feet' was released summer 2015 by Interweave Press, to great acclaim. It takes a different approach than many sock books, teaching you how to measure your feet and providing numbers for working both toe-up and top down socks for 12 sizes and 9 gauges.

Her 'Pattern Writing for Knit Designers' book is the industry's first guide specifically written to help knit designers (and teachers) of all levels create easy-to-follow, high quality knitting patterns. It's been called a "game-changer" and a "must-have" by designers and magazine editors.

She's known for her attention to detail in her patterns and her classes, and she regularly teaches at stores and events across North America, including Interweave YarnFest and Vogue Knitting Live. Her work has appeared in many books and magazines. Kate lives in Toronto with her husband and their adorable but sometimes challenging rescue dog Dexter.

Kate's newest book The Knitters Dictionary is due out this October and of course we have already ordered a bunch. We will be adding this book to our stack of Kate books.

Kate will be teaching 4 classes over the weekend.

- Next Steps in Brioche
- Continental Knitting
- Create your own Custom Shawl
- Short Row Savvy

# UAFO FUNDRAISER - Year 4!

(Rescue an Under-Appreciated Finished Object)

Despite all the resolutions, the determinations, the I've-got-this-under-control's, we still produce them - amazing Finished Objects that we just don't love. Don't eye them ruefully as they pile up in the corners (despite the insulation value.) Donate them to the fourth (!) year of the Under-Appreciated Finished Object fundraiser.

Over the past four years, we've raised \$4,000 for local charities! That's just amazing! This year, we'll return to our roots and send our proceeds to the Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region (<http://www.wcswr.org/>).

If you'd like to donate an under-appreciated finished object to the fundraising sale, please drop it off at Shall We Knit? before November 17, 2018. We'll need to have objects tagged with some basic information. The tags are available on the Shall We Knit FAQ page (at the bottom) : <http://shallweknit.ca/faq.php#UnderAppreciated>.

Then starting Tuesday, November 27, all the delightful objects will be available to be appreciated and purchased at Shall We Knit? during regular shop hours. Bring your shopping buddies. Heck, if you decide it's a perfect Christmas present for someone on your list, we promise not to tell that it's not your own creation.

The fine print:

- items will be juried by the organizers, not Shall We Knit?
- items will be assessed for condition, quality and will be included at the organizers' discretion
- items must be clean, new or nearly new and in excellent condition
- each item must have a tag filled out, including yarn cost (this helps us to price the item) Tag Link: <http://shallweknit.ca/faq.php#UnderAppreciated>
- if we can't accept your item for any reason, it will be returned
- any unsold items will be returned after the holidays and must be picked up by January 12, 2019
- any unclaimed unsold items will be donated
- each donor can drop off a limited number of items (we suggest three to four)



Classes, workshops, help...

## Guided Project Class with Erin

Every Tuesday 11:30 - 12:30 \$10

The popular guided project class is perfect when you need help but can't wait for a special class and you need more than we can help with over the counter. This is dedicated time when you can sign up ahead of time, come with whatever project you are working on, and get help. You can pick a single project and get help with it each week along the way, or you are welcome to bring a new problem to each class and get help with something new each time. Guided Project class is a book as you go - you pay \$10 for an hour of guided time.

**\*\* we are pondering doing a Guided Project class once a month on a Saturday. Please let us know what you think.**



## Choose your own Garter Adventure with Janelle

1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of month starting October 4th 6:30 - 8:00

*Suitable for advanced beginners.*

All aboard for the 5th season of Garter Club! We'll continue to meet monthly as we explore techniques used in the ever-growing selection of beautiful garter shawls. Whether you make one shawl or finish six, all are welcome, and everyone works at their own pace. Topics may include short rows, colourwork, beading, and attached edgings - although club input does influence topics covered.

Select from the list of suggested patterns from class page on website or propose your own - bet you can't knit just one! P.S. Many of these patterns are perfect ways to use up your stash!

## Building with Lace with Janelle

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of month (usually) Sept - June

A new skill building club! Knit a beautiful lace shawl, meet once a-month for ten months, from September to June (two classes are double in length) - once you're signed up you can attend as many or as few as you need. Each class builds on the lace skills learned in the previous month. By the end you'll have a stunning shawl to wear with pride. We work through skills including pattern reading, swatching, working with lace charts, different types of increases and decreases, knitting lace, Japanese stitches, attached edgings, and blocking. Additional techniques include simple cables, wrapped stitches, bobbles, knitting with beads, nupps, and circular lace patterns. You'll walk away from this class with confidence, knowing how to read and evaluate lace knitting patterns and knit them!

## How to Steek with Erin

Thurs. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 - 8:30 \$25

Steeking is a traditional technique, often used in fair isle knitting, which allows a knitter to work continuously in the round. Once the knitting is complete, openings are created by cutting along a centre column of stitches. Steeking is often used to make cardigan fronts, armscyes, neck openings, pockets, and more.

In this class we'll practice steeking on a small project - a coffee cup cozy. We'll learn how to reinforce steek stitches, cut our knitting (gasp!), and neatly tuck in and tack down the edges on the wrong side to create a tidy facing. Lastly, we'll learn how to pick up stitches along the steeked edge. You'll go home with a finished coffee cup cozy, a badge of honour for bravery, and the skills necessary to steek your next sweater!

Call the shop regarding homework for this class

## Beginner Brioche with Erin

Sat. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 - 12:00 OR 1:00 - 3:00

OR Sat. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00 - 12:00

The shawl pattern "Lemon Difficult" by Kate Atherley is included in the price of the class.

Brioche knitting produces a beautiful lofty, cushy, double layer of fabric that is reversible. The stitch is surprisingly easy yet intriguing to knit - it's rhythmic, but with just enough going on to keep it interesting.

In this class we'll learn how to work two colour brioche while making a shawl. We'll cover brioche knit ("bark") and brioche purl ("burp") stitches, how to read brioche patterns, and how to work with two colours. We'll also go over some important tips for keeping your knitting sorted out and on track.

Level: Intermediate (you know how to cast on, knit, and purl comfortably)

### Basic Mittens with Lynne

Sat. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> \$65 includes pattern

Mitts are one of those great projects that knit up quickly enough to make great gifts out of a small amount of yarn. In this class we will knit a baby-sized mitten in worsted weight wool, to learn all the parts of mitten anatomy with less knitting than an adult mitten. (Students will also receive a pattern for ladies' mittens and are guided to make an adult mitten as homework.)

Techniques taught will include casting on and knitting in the round (using either dpns or two circulars), gusset shaping, picking up a thumb, and proper cast off.

Students must be able to knit and purl independently, to distinguish knit and purl stitches in their fabric, and should have some familiarity with basic knitting terms.

### Traditional Top-Down Socks on 2 Circulars with Lynne

Sat. Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> \$80

A KnitHow Class with Lynne Sosnowski

Lynne specializes in helping students grow their "sock literacy" while making adult-sized socks in 24th fingering weight yarn. This class is of interest to brand new sock makers, those who may have only knit toe-up socks, and those who wish to learn the Two Circulars method.

In the first session you'll learn an open cast-on, including tricks to make sure the cuff stretches easily, and then practice using two circulars to work a small diameter. Throughout we'll cover not just the "how" of executing instructions but the "knit-how" - the effect those instructions have on the fabric and how to read stitches to find your way. Students are expected to work their sock to a specific point prior to the second session.

In the second session, the longest class, students work through a flap-and-gusset heel. Throughout students are guided with diagrams, waypoints and even sing-song to find their way by reading their own fabric. Instructions on altering socks are discussed. Students are expected to work their sock to a specific point prior to the third class.

In the last session students work through toe shaping and kitchener stitch grafting. Instructions on altering shaping and other methods to finish a toe are discussed.

### CustomFit Cardi class with Lynne

Starts Thurs. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 - 8:30

We've all had experience with buying garments that don't fit us perfectly, where something has to compromise. If your sweaters always have sleeves that are too long, you internalize the message that your arms are too short! Of course, the problem is that the sweater's arms are too long ... for you. In this class we begin with you, by taking several very detailed measurements (discreetly, we assure you). The sweaters we go on to make are individual and customized to your very own shape.

In our first class we review the sometimes-dreaded concept of gauge and how Custom Fit works with **your** own needles and fabric, without needing to match a pattern gauge! We'll talk about what Custom Fit can (and cannot) do, discuss yarn choices and fabric characteristics, how to swatch effectively, and the sort of style choices available with CF sweaters. Students will leave with information on selecting yarn and pattern, and what stage to work towards for the second class.

The second class follows soon after the first, covering pattern reading - including the mysteries of "keeping pattern correct" and "at the same time", the order of sweater construction, where and how to work increases and decreases, and an overview of shaping in pattern stitches. Students will leave armed with the information they need to knit their sweater pieces.

Class three comes many weeks later, allowing time for students to finish some or all of their sweater pieces. We'll look at blocking and "dressing" your knits, as well as the seaming methods used for shoulders, sleeves and side seams and darning in ends.

The last class looks at picking up stitches for bands and necklines and addresses options in finishing treatments. We'll cover a couple of methods for working buttonholes, and will also discuss pockets, necklines and collars, and added-on edges. You'll end with a completed, wardrobe staple Custom Fit sweater.

### Beginner Knitting Part 2 with Kerry

Sat. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 - 3:00 \$25

This class is for beginners with a bit of experience: I'll assume you know how to cast on, knit, purl, and bind off, but if you need a bit of practice that's fine - I'll review these at the start of class. What I teach for the rest of the class depends on the interests of the students. Potential topics include increasing/decreasing, fixing mistakes, circular knitting, reading a pattern, finishing a project, etc. So, bring your questions and any projects you're working on!

### Thrummed Mittens with Erin

Saturday, November 17th 1:00 - 3:00 \$25

Skills needed: comfortable knitting in the round

Thrummed mittens originate from Newfoundland and Labrador where they know what cold winters are! "Thrumming" is a technique in which bits of wool roving are knitted into the mitten to create an inner lining that, with wear and use, will felt into an insulating layer making the mitten more windproof. In this class we'll learn how to make thrums and how to knit them securely into mittens. Pattern included with class (women's size). Here's to toasty warm hands this winter!

Skills needed: comfortable knitting in the round

### Learn to Crochet with Erin

Thur. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 - 8:30

This class is for absolute beginners or those working on basic skills. We'll start at the very beginning (a very good place to start) and cover all the basics - from how to hold your hook and tension yarn, to making your very first crochet stitch. Crochet hook, yarn, and a simple washcloth pattern are included in the class.

Materials: please bring a pen or pencil to take notes

### Next Steps in Lace - a Mystery Shawl KAL with Janelle

3rd Thursday of month (usually) January - July

A new skills building club and a mystery shawl!

Building on the lace knitting skills gained in the "Building with Lace" club, this new shawl (rectangular stole) introduces knitters to the beauty of Bavarian and Japanese lace patterns. Club members will meet each month and receive the next part of the shawl design, a week before it is available to online subscribers. Meet once-a-month for seven months, from January to July. Each class builds on the lace skills learned in the previous month. By the end you'll have a stunning shawl to wear with pride. We work through skills including pattern reading, swatching, working with lace charts, knitting lace, Japanese stitches, Bavarian stitches, Kitchener stitch in pattern, and blocking. Additional techniques include cables, twisted stitches, raised stitches, knitting with beads, and an introduction to some advanced lace knitting techniques.

At only \$15 per session, plus a one-time purchase of the pattern at \$7.50, this is an affordable way to build your lace knitting chops. We do ask that you purchase your shawl yarn at Shall We Knit?

\*\*\*if all classes are paid prior to first class you will receive a ball of Cascade Superwash to use for your class swatching.

### Next Steps in Brioche with Kate Atherley

Sat. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 9:30 - 12:30 \$60

For knitters with a little **bit of experience** with Brioche knitting, this class will get you started on more complex patterns, starting with Kate's "Omnishambles" patterned brioche scarf.

The session focuses on building skills and confidence with the technique. We'll talk about working increase and decreases, tidy edges, and fixing mistakes. Along the way we'll share a few tips for making the process easier and more fun.

### Continental Knitting with Kate Atherley

Sat. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1:30 - 3:30 \$40

Want to knit faster? Are you ready to tackle colourwork? Knitting continental style - with the yarn in your left hand rather than right - is the key to speed, and also helps you enormously with colorwork.

Suitable for knitters who are confident with knit and purl stitch.

### Create Your Own Custom Shawl with Kate Atherley

Sun. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:30 - 12:30 \$60

skill level: knitters must have made a few shawls and have some lace skill.

Create Your Own Custom Shawl/Introduction to Shawl Design and Customization

For adventurous knitters looking to expand their skills and get creative!

This class explains key shawl shapes, and how to make them your own with stitch patterns and custom design details. We'll share tips for shawl knitting: stretchy cast ons and bind offs and increase and edging options for decorative and functional purposes. We'll talk about yarn choices and fabrics, how to use multiple colors, and stitch patterns that work for variegated yarns. Students leave with a set of pattern templates and the confidence and knowledge to start customizing and creating their own designs.

### Short Row Savvy with Kate Atherley

Sun. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:30 - 3:30 \$40

"Wrap & Turn" is not a dance move, it's a fabulous way to create shapes with your knitting. Short rows are used for sock heels, they're common in shawls to create, and to create ruffles. In this class we'll discuss four or five common methods of working short rows (and hiding them, just as important!): wrap, German, Yarnover, Shadow, Japanese. We'll discuss their use in bust shaping to custom fit a garment and we'll share a no-fail recipe for a tidy and elegant short row sock heel. Last but not least, we'll show you how to convert a shaped garment shoulder to use short rows for easier seaming.



## **SHOP HOURS**

**Tues. & Wed. 10 - 5:30**

**Thurs. 10 - 8**

**Fri. 10 - 9**

**Sat. 10 - 4**

**Sun. & Mon. CLOSED**



## **Shall We...Squirrel!!!**

If you're like most of us, you can be easily distracted by a new yarn. We do joke around the shop about the shiny string distraction...Squirrel!

Once a month (we started July with Coriand3r Merino/Silk/Yak and August was Lichen & Lace) we are going to have a small limited quantity of something we don't normally carry in the shop for sale. This might be a custom dyed yarn, or a new knitting accessory or...who knows what we might find to play with. We will post pictures (on Instagram, Twitter & Facebook) of the item on the first Thursday of the month and it will go on sale when the shop opens the first Friday of the month. There will be no advance peaking, info or holds.

Sound like fun?



## **A Shall We Knit? Retreat**

**Yarnplay: From Swatch to Sweater**

January 18-20, 2019

Elmhurst Inn, Ingersoll, ON  
**SOME SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE**

Details and registration are on the website.  
\$100 deposit due with registration (non-refundable after October 1st) Balance due by October 15th.

This year we are pleased to have the very talented Janelle Martin and Lynne Sosnowski teaching. So start talking to your knitting friends and plan a weekend away. This might even be a great idea to hint strongly you would like for a Christmas gift!

Join us for a fun weekend away, surrounded by fellow knitters who share the same joy in stitching, in a peaceful and luxurious environment. No cooking, no chores, no children - just a couple of days of stimulating classes, excellent meals, optional spa treatments, a pop-up shop filled with goodies (and exclusives!), and fun in good company.