

# The Slipped Stitch

## Apr 2021

Happy Easter,

Happy Spring

Spring is here, yah! Although the winter wasn't too bad, everyone is ready to bust out of their houses with the lifting of Covid restrictions. With everyone getting out and going places again, our classes for Spring are going to focus on portability - easy to take with you! And what's more portable than socks? So of course we'll be doing socks. We also have a lot of new crafters around so we'll also be focusing on easy patterns for beginners with a square of the month project. The other projects are a hat and cowl. That means everything is small enough to fit into a small tote and take along to the park, on a drive or wherever you may go - can everyone say Yarn Crawl?

There are also a lot of events going on in the coming months, and Spring also means planting gardens and all that other fun stuff. Craft wise we're going to be doing a full 12-hour Craft for Food Craft-a-thon this month and a kid's weaving workshop day as well as a demonstration day at The Brinton Museum. For May we have a special Rigid Heddle Weaving Class and our annual Cowboy Yarn Crawl starts. June we have Knit-in-Public Day. See below for more information on these events. So flex those crafty fingers and let's get going!

**Reminder:** We are now open til 7pm on Wednesdays. Come on in and hang out, get help, or schedule a one-on-one class. Janet and I will be trading alternate Wednesdays.

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cowboy Yarn Crawl – May 29 through September 25** – Eight shops participating: Ewe Count, Cheyenne; Cowgirl Yarn, Laramie; Grand Loop Yarns and Fibers, Cody; Knit on Pearl, Jackson; Mountain Meadow Wool, Buffalo; The Fiber House, Sheridan, and two new shops, a brand new shop in Casper and the yarn and the tale in Rock Springs!

**SAVE THE DATE** - Saturday June 11, Annual Knit in Public Day Picnic. More details to come.

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### Craft for Food Craft-a-Thon

I would like to invite you all to participate in a **Craft for Food Craft-a-Thon**. We are committing to craft for 12 hours in order to raise money to help alleviate food insecurity in Sheridan and Johnson Counties. All proceeds will stay in our communities and will be donated to the following:

People Assistance Food Bank (Sheridan County)

Bread of Life Food Pantry (Johnson County)

The Hub on Smith's Home Delivered Meals Program (Sheridan County)

SNAP DoubleUp Program at the Sheridan Farmers Market (Sheridan County)

**When:** Sunday, April 11, 2021 from 9am to 9pm.

**Where:** Downtown Sheridan Association Building, 121 S. Main Street (corner Burkitt and Main).

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The Fiber House

307-673-0383 [www.thefiberhouse.com](http://www.thefiberhouse.com)

146 Coffeen Ave

[www.facebook.com/The-Fiber-House/254634194647593](https://www.facebook.com/The-Fiber-House/254634194647593)

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Thank you to the Downtown Sheridan Association for providing the location.

**What you do:** Get donation pledges from friends, family, neighbors (pledge sheets are available at The Fiber House).

Commit to craft for the day on April 11.

Bring your donations to The Fiber House by April 15th.

You can do any type of craft you prefer (knit, crochet, weave, spin, quilt, tat, color, paint, needle felt, etc). Everyone is welcome. Stay for as long as you'd like. We will have some games, munchies, drawings for freebies, etc.

If you prefer to stay home and craft, you can join us virtually through Zoom.

The Fiber House is pledging \$100 to this event and will also provide some of the prizes.

Double your giving by crafting something to donate. I will have yarn and patterns available for anyone who would like to make Knitted or Crocheted Knockers (breast prosthetics).

Please call if you have any questions and to let us know if you are planning to participate. Donations gladly accepted if you do not plan to craft. If you are out of town and would like to participate, please feel free to donate any money you receive to your local food bank or any national charity. Thank you all in advance for your support!

## The Fiber House Covid Update

Thankfully our Covid numbers here in Sheridan have been on the decline and with the increase in vaccinations we hope to be back to normal soon. We are still continuing the Zoom classes and virtual sit-n-knit and the store is open if you would like to come in to shop, get assistance, hang out for awhile, or even schedule a one-on-one class. We are still limiting the number of people in the store to 8 at a time. As always, you can place an order online or by phone or email for pick up or we can ship it to you. We are here to help in any way we can. Stay safe, stay healthy, and craft on!

**Note: Masks are no longer required, but please feel free to wear one if you like.**

## April Monthly Special- 10% off all Cotton Yarns

Warm weather is here and for all of you who think wool is too hot to work with during the summer, now is the time to stock up on all yarns cottony. We have a couple of new cotton yarns including the scrumptious *Sea Isle Cotton*, (50% organic cotton/ 50% merino wool worsted weight) from Plymouth,

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*Yumbrel DK* (100% handpainted cotton) from Araucania, and *Coastline* (worsted cotton/linen blend) from Jody Long. And don't forget our perennial favorites *Fantasy Naturale* from Plymouth, *Bamboo Pop* from Universal, *Cotton Fleece* from Brown Sheep, *Remix* and *Remix Light* from Berroco, and two of my personal favorites *United* and *United Foursome* (both cotton/wool blends). We also have cotton blended with almost every other fiber you can think of, such as Berroco's *Summer Silk* (dk weight silk/cotton blend), and *Corsica* (cotton and cashmere), Hikoo's *Cobasi* and *Cobasi DK* (cotton/bamboo/ silk blends), Nako's *Denim* (cotton/acrylic blend), and Plymouth's *Moonshadow* (cotton/alpaca blend). We have cotton sock yarns too (of course) including the aforementioned *Cobasi*, as well as Universal's *Bamboo Pop Sock*, and Schoppel's *Zauberball Crazy Cotton* and the organic *Cotton Ball*. And so much more!

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## NEW! NEW! NEW!

Urth Yarns Harvest DK and sock yarn kits, include the Tigress and Pan 21 colorways. Harvest DK is dyed with natural dyes including oleander, walnut, cranberry, etc. We have seven colors in stock. Check out their website if you'd like to see what other colors are available: [www.urthyarns.com](http://www.urthyarns.com).

We also have several colors of Mountain Meadow's new worsted weight *Cora*. This is a 3-ply yarn and some of the colors we have are marled – meaning each ply is dyed a different color before it is plied together. Check out the hat and cowl using an easy slip stitch pattern on display at the store.

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## April Classes -

Please note that the special rigid heddle class being taught by Deb Essen in conjunction with the Small Expressions Exhibit has been re-scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Janet has uncovered a great pattern for a spring knit-along, perfect for building your skills. We will be knitting Princess and the Pea by LilyGo. This is a gorgeous lace shawl that can be knit in several sizes and includes beads if you'd like to use them. The extra-small uses just over 400 yards of fingering weight yarn, while the large comes in at 977 yards, so there's lots of flexibility in the yarn choices. This pattern will shine brightest in a solid or semi solid color yarn. You can purchase the Ravelry pattern through the shop, and then select yarn and beads. You can start at any time, and Janet will be available to help sort out any difficulties. This KAL will be held on Tuesdays from 2 to 4pm.

Every Wednesday, 1-3pm – Virtual Sit n Knit

Every Thursday, 1-3pm - The Hub Group

Every Saturday, Noon-1pm – Virtual Sit n Knit

Tuesday Apr 13, 2-4pm – Needle-felted Bird of the Month: Bird nest with eggs (in-store only – no Zoom)

Saturday Apr 17, 1-4pm – Needle-felted Ornament – Bear (in-store only – no Zoom)

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Also Saturday, Apr 17: Special Class at The Brinton Museum = Kid's Workshops: Paper Weaving from 10 to Noon and Mini-tapestry Weaving from 1 to 3pm.

Friday Apr 2, Saturday Apr 10, 1-4pm - Knit Honeycomb Hat or Cowl

Saturday Apr 3 and Fri Apr 16 and Apr 30, 1-4pm - Beginning Socks

Friday Apr 9 and Saturday, Apr 24 - Square of the Month for Beginners.

Friday Class times are 1 to 3pm for knitters and 3 to 5pm for crocheters.

Saturday Class times are Noon to 2 pm for knitters and 2 to 4pm for crocheters.

Friday Apr 23, 1-4pm - Mini How-to: Picking up dropped stitches

Sign up is required for the needle-felting classes in order to ensure that we have enough kits available. Classes will be both in-store and through Zoom. If you would like to join a class/meeting through Zoom please email [donna@thefiberhouse.com](mailto:donna@thefiberhouse.com) in order to receive a meeting ID number.

## Weaving and Spinning News

In conjunction with the Small Expressions Exhibit, this month we are going to be doing demonstrations at The Brinton Museum again. Sunday April 25, noon to 4pm. Please come if you'd like to help demonstrate. We will resume regular meetings in May at the UU Fellowship Building.

## DROP SHIP PROGRAMS

These programs are still active.

**Polka Dot Sheep** ([www.polkadotsheep.com](http://www.polkadotsheep.com)) - Hand-dyed yarns, kits, and patterns. You can order directly from her website and she is offering free shipping. When you check out, put The Fiber House in the "Notes" area and we will get credit on our next wholesale order.

For all of the following companies, you can check out what they offer on their website. Then you place your order with us (even if it something we don't generally keep in stock), we submit the order to the company, and your items are shipped directly to you. In most cases there is a drop ship fee (\$7 to \$11 per order).

**Mountain Colors** ([www.mountaincolors.com](http://www.mountaincolors.com)) - Hand-dyed yarns, kits, and patterns.

**Brown Sheep** ([www.brownsheep.com](http://www.brownsheep.com)) - Yarns, kits, and patterns. Drop shipping is not new to Brown Sheep since they have always done this.

**Berroco Yarns** ([www.berroco.com](http://www.berroco.com)) - All Berroco, Amano, Lang, Wool Addicts, and Lopi Yarns and Drop Ship kit of the week specials. Sign up for their newsletter list "KnitBits" and get free patterns and information about the weekly kits, contests, and other goodies.

**Universal Yarns** ([www.universalyarn.com](http://www.universalyarn.com)) - Universal, Wisdom, Rosetti, Nazli Gelin, and Fibra Natura Yarns, kits, and patterns.

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Urth Yarns ([www.urthyarns.com](http://www.urthyarns.com)) – Yarns and kits. This is a company we have not yet stocked at the store but they have some nice yarns that we may stock in the future. Right now you can order through us and get it drop shipped to you.

Knitting Fever/ Euro Yarns ([www.knittingfever.com](http://www.knittingfever.com)) – special drop ship kits only.

Rowan Yarns ([www.knitrowan.com](http://www.knitrowan.com)) - special drop ship kits only.

Ashford Looms ([www.ashford.co.nz](http://www.ashford.co.nz)) - weaving and spinning supplies and equipment.

Kromski ([www.kromskina.com](http://www.kromskina.com)) - weaving and spinning equipment.

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## Handweaver's Guild of America Small Expressions Exhibit.

MARCH 13 thru MAY 9, 2021  
The Brinton Museum's Johnston Gallery  
Thursday through Monday - 9:30am to 5pm

The Creative Fiber Guild in partnership with The Brinton Museum will be hosting HGA's Small March 13 through May 9, 2021. Admission to The Brinton Museum is free for 2021 courtesy of First Interstate Bank! We had a great turnout for the opening reception and so far we've had visitors from Montana and Casper visit as well. The following events will be held in conjunction with the exhibit:

- 1) **Wyoming weavers.** We will be adding 13 pieces created by Wyoming weavers to the exhibit. The weavers range in age from under 10 to over 80 and hail from Sheridan, Buffalo, Casper and Worland.
  - 2) **Weaving display.** In addition to the exhibit pieces, there will be a display of different weaving techniques, tools, and looms.
  - 3) **Workshops.** CFG will be hosting the following two workshops:
    - a. **Beginning Rigid Heddle Class.** This class will be taught at The Brinton Museum Saturday May 1st and Sunday May 2nd by Deb Essen of DJE Handwovens in Montana. Class is \$120 per person with a 15 person limit. Looms will be available for use during the class. No prior experience needed. Donna Stubbs will be assisting Deb during the class.
    - b. **Kids Weaving Workshops.** Ann Arndt of Sheridan will teach two separate kids workshops on April 17, 2021 at The Brinton Museum. The first workshop will be on paper weaving from 10am to noon and the second workshop will be mini-tapestry weaving on a cardboard loom from 1 to 3pm. Each workshop will cost \$15 per child or both workshops for \$25. Paulette Kucera will be assisting with both workshops.
    - c. Please contact Donna Stubbs at The Fiber House, 307-673-0383 to register for these classes.
  - 4) **Demonstration Day.** Sunday April 25, noon to 4pm.
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In Consideration of . . . (also known as - Donna's Soapbox):

## The Gauge Swatch

(reprinted from March 2011 newsletter – still applicable today!)

Aargh! That dreaded, dratted gauge. Lately, we have all been having issues with our gauge for various reasons. Every pattern will generally give a specific gauge with the added remark: "Take time to save time- make a gauge swatch!" And many of us have ignored that sage advice and willy nilly gone straight for the good stuff – actually making what we want to make!

But making a swatch BEFORE you start on your project is probably the most important knitting or crocheting you can do. It is also important that, if you are going to be making the project in the round, you knit the gauge swatch in the round. Most knitters' purl stitches are slightly looser than their knit stitch. Knitting a flat swatch in stockinette with knit stitches on even rows and purl stitches on odd rows may yield a slightly different gauge than a round swatch with all knit stitches. You should also make sure your gauge swatch is knit in the recommended pattern, whether stockinette, garter, or another pattern. DO NOT measure your gauge on ribbing, since ribbing is designed to contract for a snug fit.

Although most patterns state a needle or hook size for the project – no two knitters or crocheters will get the same stitch and row gauge with the same needle size. Your gauge on a size 1 needle for socks may be the same gauge I get on a size 2 needle, tight knitter that I am. The pattern may say size g hook or size 7 needle and you may need to go up or down a hook/ needle size to obtain the required gauge.

Generally, you are asked to create a 4" gauge swatch. When checking your gauge, aim for the stitch count first. You can generally add more rows to get the necessary length in a project, which is easier than trying to recalculate the pattern to match your stitch count. When counting your gauge, make sure you are as accurate as possible. Although it may not seem like much, if you count 5 stitches to an inch and there was a smidgen of a stitch left, that smidgen could add up to several inches if you're trying to figure the number of cast-on stitches for a sweater. Let's say you counted 5 stitches for one inch, but if you counted over four inches, you count 21 stitches. That's actually 5.25 stitches per inch. If you need to cast-on for a 40 inch sweater, 40 times 5 equal 200, but 40 times 5.25 is 210 stitches. Those extra 10 stitches can make a two-inch difference in the fit.

Well, now that you've buckled down and made that gauge swatch, what do you do with it? Some very organized people keep that swatch in a binder with notes on the pattern, the yarn used, how many skeins the project required, etc. Some people save them up and make scarves, or blankets, etc. with similar weight yarns. Me? – well, I'm definitely not organized enough to have a project binder, and I'm all over the board with the types of yarns I use, and besides, I'm too cheap to let good yarn go unused, so . . . I just rip out the swatch and re-use it in my project!

Wishing you success in all your crafting projects.