

The Slipped Stitch

Dec 2024

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah. We hope everyone has a joyous and peaceful holiday season. If you still need ideas for gifts or want to start a holiday wish list for your own presents, we have a lot of great ideas. We have project kits, interchangeable needle/ hook sets, looms, spinning wheels, pin looms, lots of cool books, notions galore, and of course, there's always gift certificates available.

Dec Classes

Learn to Knit/ Crochet: Wednesdays 1 to 4pm and Saturdays 10 to Noon
Wednesday Nights Late Nite: We're open till 7pm.
The Hub Group: Thursdays, 1-3pm

Janet's Center Out Sweater: Tuesdays 2-4pm
Mitered Squares –Saturday Dec 21 – 1-4pm
T-3 Top - Friday Dec 6 and Saturday Dec 14– 1-4pm
Top-down socks - Friday Dec 20 and Saturday Dec 7– 1-4pm
Last two weeks of December will be UFO days so that we can get old projects finished up and start fresh in the new year.

Coming in 2025

All new classes, *three* knit-a-longs, and a yarn tasting (in the spring)! Starting in January we will be working on a series of classes in color. First up, we will have a couple of classes on color theory – what colors to use together, when, and why, etc. Then we start with some actual projects, beginning with easy techniques such as stripes and working our way up to more complicated ones. For these classes you have the choice of making sampler wash cloths or afghan squares or incorporating the technique into another project/ garment.

The knit-a-longs. Brown Sheep – Starting January 7, you can sign up to participate in their Rose Frost Sweater knit-a-long. This beautiful sweater is a fair isle design using either Lamb's Pride or Lanaloft Worsted yarn. You can choose from five pre-selected colorway kits or choose your own colors. You can buy/order the yarn or kits through us, but you need to sign up for the pattern through the Brown Sheep website. If you join the facebook group and post a picture of your sweater, you can enter to win a \$50 gift certificate. Check out more details at: <https://brownsheep.com/rose-frost-sweater-winter-knit-along/>

Berroco – Starting January 2, Berroco will be hosting a YEAR LONG mystery blanket knit-a-long. The project uses five colors of Vintage worsted weight yarn in your choice of colors. One or two new patterns will be release on the first Thursday of the month. Different techniques will be explored including cables, lace, texture, etc. Posting a picture of your finished afghan on the Ravelry KAL page at the end of the year and your name will be entered to win a YEAR'S WORTH of yarn! More details available at: <https://berroco.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=eeaf7dde272b85ecf43013343&id=9999a71aef&e=011a814fc0>

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A Fiber House exclusive make-a-long will be coming this spring. More details will follow in January. For any of these KAL/MALs, we will be dedicating every other Wednesday to working on these projects. So if you'd like to join any (or all) of them, let us know and we can help you get started!

Dec Monthly Special – Free Gift with Purchase

December is the month for giving gifts and as is our tradition we are giving free gifts with every purchase. For a purchase of \$20 or more you will receive a bag of cedar chips. These are a great item to keep the dreaded clothes moths your special hand-crafted items. The chips can be stored with your items, hung in a closet, or stashed in a drawer. For purchases over \$50, you will receive a free skein of yarn of your choice (up to \$10 in value).

NEW! NEW! NEW!

We just got a big supply of *Variations* yarn from Bryson in both DK and fingering weight. These hand-dyed yarns are super-saturated and vibrant tonals in a superwash merino and nylon blend.

Do you have any Pokemon fans in your circle of family and friends? How about Harry Potter, Nightmare Before Christmas, or Disney? We have pattern books for all of these fan favorites and we also have a couple of everything-included kits to make a stuffed Pikachu toy.

Weaving and Spinning News

Our Weaving and Spinning Group meeting is the third Sundays of the month. This month we will meet on December 15, from 1 to 3pm at the UU Fellowship Building. Bring a treat to share.

Year Round Charity Donation Request

We have had a request from a group at Trinity Lutheran Church for hand knit or crocheted baby sweaters and hats. At Trinity Lutheran Church, their "Quilts and Kits" group creates Baby Care Kits and Quilts that are donated for disaster relief. Each kit needs a hoodie or sweater and cap in sizes 6-24 months. Any color is fine and it's a good way to use up scraps. This is an ongoing project and their goal again this year is 50 kits. Berroco Yarn has donated some of their *Comfort* yarn for this project. If you would like to knit or crochet any of these items, you can request some of this yarn if you'd like. Then drop off the completed items at The Fiber House and we will pass them along to the group. So far we have a few hats, sweaters, and afghans to send along but more are always welcome.

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In Consideration of . . . (also known as – Donna’s Soapbox):

How Politics Affects Crafters (a little history, a little politics, a little philosophy)

A little history . . . If you like history like I do you may realize that we live in a golden age for crafters of every ilk – whether fiber artist, wood worker, jewelry designer, etc. We can create things in our leisure time strictly for our own pleasure and we can easily procure materials that in past centuries were either unavailable, or prohibitively expensive. We can wear/ use any materials we can afford without restrictions. This has not always been the case – and here we introduce **a little politics** also.

Before the Industrial Revolution in the 1700s, all garments and fabric goods were laboriously produced by hand spun yarn, woven on hand looms, and then hand sewn. This made even everyday clothes very costly. Many people, especially poor people, were lucky to have “one to wear, one to wash, and one for Sabbath” referring to dresses, shirts, and trousers. Most people never owned a “store boughten” garment, instead having to make their own. Even into the 1800s, although fabric was slightly more affordable due to the mechanization of weaving and spinning, it was still rare that many people could afford ready-made clothes.

And, as Kassia St. Clair writes in *The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History*, countries throughout history have created laws regarding the importing, growing, making and/ or wearing of certain fibers. In the 7th century, China had laws declaring that only emperors could wear a certain yellow color of silk. The so called “Sumptuary Laws” in England in the 1300s placed restrictions on imports of luxury cloth and fur in order to stimulate the British cloth industry, and also mandated the types and cost of clothes for certain classes – for example, servants were not allowed to wear clothes with gold or silver embroidery, and gentlemen below the rank of knight could not buy cloth costing more than 4 ½ marks! The production of cotton in the US created a whole political and social system based on slavery that ended up causing the American Civil War.

And what, you may ask, does any of this have to do with us, here and now? **A little more (recent) politics** – The current president elect has declared his intention to place tariffs on many imported goods – in order to stimulate American industry (for established precedents see previous paragraph about Sumptuary laws). I am all for stimulating American industry but cannot help but be worried about what that means specifically for us as crafters and my store in particular.

At this point in time, probably about 80% of the store’s inventory has been imported. From everywhere! Needles from China and Germany, spinning wheels and weaving looms from Poland and New Zealand, yarn and fiber from China, Germany, Norway, France, Italy, Turkey, Peru, Uruguay, Japan, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand . . . and more.

Yes, we do have American made yarns and other items –completely American produced yarns come from Brown Sheep, Mountain Meadow Wool, and Lunatic Fringe, looms and wheels from Schacht Spindle Company, and wood needles from Brittany Birch, etc. All of these companies make wonderful products that we are proud to carry in our store.

So if the tariffs are put into place, what does that mean? Almost certainly it means that our imported products will increase in price. How much and how quickly that would happen remains to be seen. We

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have already seen price increases from most our companies in the last two years and more are already planned for the next several months. Another aspect of this is that many of our indie dyers use imported yarns and dyes. It also means that some of goods that we know and love may no longer be imported. I don't have a crystal ball so I have no idea of how all this will play out over the next several years.

A little philosophy. We have really been spoiled by the availability and (relatively) inexpensive yarns and other goods that come to us from around the world. And I, for one, am a little sad and worried about what is to come for the crafting world. One option we will be exploring for the store is to add more American made goods to our inventory. However, the broad array of different fibers and the quantity that we are used to may not be as available. No matter what your political inclinations are, whether you agree or disagree with anything regarding politics, two things are certain. First, we will all be living and dealing with it no matter the form. Second, we will persevere and keep on crafting – even if we have to save the dog and cat hair dust bunnies to use for spinning our yarn!