WEBS Knitting Retreat September 19-22, 2019

We’ll be welcoming knitters to the beautiful Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts for a weekend of classes, late-night knitting, after-hours shopping sprees and more. If you’ve been waiting to make a pilgrimage to America’s biggest yarn store, now’s the time to make your move!

Enjoy cozy comfort and deluxe accommodations at Hotel UMass, our home base for the weekend. Fabulous, fresh meals and snacks, nooks for knitting and a ‘late-night lounge’ with desserts, drinks, and a chance to knit and talk knitting with those who understand your fiber passion.

Shopping Spree at WEBS
with Steve and Kathy Elkins

After-hours exclusives with trunk shows, yarn reps and Free Shipping for all your purchases!

We have some of the most talented instructors sharing their expertise this weekend!

Anne Hanson, Carson Demers, Donna Druchunas, Alasdair Post-Quinn, Kate Atherley and Franklin Habit will share their expertise, tips, and tricks of the trade with our students.
WEBS Knitting Retreat is a weekend of fiber, friends, food & foliage!

Your registration fee covers all your meals from Thursday’s Welcome Dinner through Sunday brunch with Keynote Speaker Dana Williams-Johnson, two full days of classes on Friday and Saturday, and transportation to WEBS for an After-Hours Shopping Spree with owners Steve and Kathy Elkins. There will be late-night knitting get-togethers with snacks, desserts, and cocktails, plenty of time to meet up with friends or make new knitting buddies, creative meals, and lots of yarn to see, feel, and buy.

On Saturday night, you’ll enjoy a trip to WEBS. Luxury motor-coaches will take attendees to a shopping spree at WEBS, America’s Yarn Store. You’ll have 2 super-special shopping Sherpas: Steve and Kathy Elkins, owners of WEBS! The icing on the cake is that whatever you buy, you will get FREE SHIPPING! And in case you can’t make a decision on Saturday evening, the store will be open to shoppers on Sunday, and again, FREE SHIPPING!

Our sponsors will make your weekend as unique and luxurious as possible starting with giveaways and sumptuous swag bags. They will also be on hand Saturday night at WEBS with trunk shows, reps and designers ready to show you their most popular yarns and garments.

Make sure you leave extra time before you travel home on Sunday to explore the beautiful downtown Northampton area. Have a late lunch, browse our many clothing boutiques and local artisan galleries, and leave with wonderful memories, new friends made, and a resolve to join us for our WEBS Knitting Retreats in 2020.
Teacher Bios

Carson Demers
Author of the book *Knitting Comfortably: The Ergonomics of Knitting*, Carson Demers is a physical therapist who operates an award-winning ergonomics program for a San Francisco medical center. Every other moment he’s knitting, spinning, designing, teaching, or otherwise up to some fiber fun - always with a watchful eye toward ergonomics. His passion and experience in fiber arts combine with his expertise in physical therapy and ergonomics to create a unique skill set that he eagerly shares with the fiber community to keep us all creating healthfully - and comfortably - ever after. Carson teaches at knitting, spinning, and other fiber events throughout the US. He loves to teach at local yarn shops and guilds. He has written articles for TNNA and other publications, and is a regular contributor to *Ply* magazine.

Donna Druchunas
Donna began her career as a technical writer for large corporations. With over 25 years experience in technical writing, she has carried her knowledge over to the knitting world, writing patterns and developing books for fellow knitters. Her second book, *Arctic Lace* (about a knitting co-op in Alaska), is a smash hit and has been in publication since 2004. After working with large knitting publishers, Donna has decided to try her hand at self-publishing. She is currently working on the *Stories in Stitches* knitting book series with co-author Ava Coleman and Susan Santos. Travel has been Donna’s latest passion. She has made several trips to Western and Eastern Europe seeking out the international history of knitting.

Anne Hanson
Knitspot owner and designer Anne Hanson, a life-long knitter with experience in the fashion and graphic design fields, enjoys an ongoing conversation with users, incorporating customer feedback into Knitspot products wherever possible. Anne also teaches and writes about knitting, spinning, and designing in her “knit spot”, and lives in Ohio with David, who loves wool, too. Anne’s background as a patternmaker/draiper, technical designer, and costumer in New York City’s garment district informs her work, providing a rich source of experience in garment construction and fit, as well as knowledge of a wide range of fibers and fabrics.

Kate Atherley
Kate is Knitty.com’s Managing Technical Editor, and a seasoned designer and teacher of all things knitterly. Her latest book, *The Knitter’s Dictionary*, is an easy-to-use and friendly guide to the language of knitting. It received a starred review in *Publisher’s Weekly*. ‘*Knit Mitts: Your Hand-y Guide to Knitting Mittens and Gloves*’, released in fall 2017, brings the same any-size-any-gauge approach as used in *Custom Socks* to hand coverings of all kinds. 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*. 
Teacher Bios

**Alasdair Post-Quinn**

Alasdair Post-Quinn is a computer technician from the Boston area, and spends much of his spare time as a knitwear designer, focusing specifically on double-knitting. He is among those on the forefront of innovation in double-knitting. His books, entitled *Extreme Double Knitting* and *Double or Nothing* document snapshots of his repertoire of esoteric double-knitting techniques (as well as being guides for beginning double-knitters), but is continuing to develop techniques and apply them to new designs. In addition to designing patterns, Alasdair Post-Quinn also teaches workshops for all levels of double-knitting experience. His blog, *Fallingblox*, focuses on topics such as music, food, and reversible knitting.

**Franklin Habit**

Designer, teacher, author and illustrator Franklin Habit is the author of *It Itches: A Stash of Knitting Cartoons*. His book, *I Dream of Yarn: A Knit and Crochet Coloring Book*, was published in 2016. He first became known as the writer of The Panopticon, one of the most popular knitting blogs on the Internet. Franklin’s varied experience in the fiber world includes contributions of writing and design to Vogue Knitting, Yarn Market News, Interweave Knits, Interweave Crochet, PieceWork, and regular columns for Knitty.com, PLY Magazine, Lion Brand Yarn, and his popular “Fridays with Franklin” feature for Skacel Collection. Franklin lives in Chicago, IL, cohabiting shamelessly with 15,000 books, a Schacht spinning wheel, 3 looms, and a colony of yarn that multiplies whenever his back is turned.

**Keynote Speaker: Dana Williams-Johnson**

Dana Williams-Johnson, also known as DWJ, is the voice behind the blog Yards of Happiness. Knitting is what brings Dana joy, and she shows that through her use of color and her modifications of her favorite patterns into replica sweaters for her two small dogs. Every week she shares her love of all things yarn and knitting on her website and demonstrates just how much she loves knitting. In one year, she knit 27 sweaters, along with dozens of other projects. And in under five years since she knit her first sweater, she has knit over 150 sweaters of varying complexity. Her philosophy behind knitting is to approach it without fear and your work will blossom. When not squeezing skeins of yarn or knitting, Dana is working as a professor in Marketing at Howard University in Washington, DC or spoiling her two rescue dogs, Cher and Jellybean. She is also happily married to man who appreciates her love of yarn.
Anne Hanson

**Sweater Fitness Workshop:** Participants will complete a thorough set of body measurements and discuss how to use them to choose and use a sweater pattern in an appropriate size and may complete a gauge swatch in class. Note: Materials are not included and must be purchased at our store. No outside materials will be allowed in class. Other topics of discussion will include yarn choices, pattern reading and terminology, types and uses of shaping techniques, tips and tricks for successful navigation through a sweater project. *This is an all day class*

**Shapely Shoulders:** The shoulder area of any garment is its most visible feature; a well-fitted, beautifully finished shoulder line creates a clean, tailored, and professional image for its wearer. This class offers students tips and tricks for fitting shoulders and executing smooth shoulders seams. Students will practice a variety of shoulder bind-off techniques and learn how to stitch shoulder edges together without lumps and bumps. They will be introduced to short row shoulder shaping and learn how to substitute it into most patterns.

**Welcome to the Chart Side:** We explore the practical application of charted knitting patterns, how to read them, and how to use them for speed and efficiency in creating knitted fabric. Note: Materials are not included and must be purchased at our store. No outside materials will be allowed in class. Various charting systems are reviewed, and practice time provided in using charts for both knitting flat fabric and pieces worked in the round.

Donna Druchunas

**Lace Around the World:** In this class, we will learn lace stitches from around the world and learn how to work the stitches and follow charts so it’s painless and fun. We’ll cover stitches from places from all over Europe including Shetland, Estonia, Italy, Russia and Germany. We’ll make a swatch in class to practice, then we’ll put it all together into a sampler shawl and continue with a KAL to make sure you get all the help you need as you finish your shawl at home. *This is an all day class*

**Victorian Knitting:** In this class, we will look at several Victorian knitting patterns and discuss how to interpret the instructions for today’s knitters. We will discuss gauge, sizing and materials and will look at a glossary of knitting terms that compares those from Victorian times with modern technology and techniques. We will also learn how to chart lace and texture patterns to make them easier to work with. We will go over the basics of charting using graph paper and pencil, and we will also learn about a variety charting fonts, spreadsheet tools, and software programs for Mac and Windows. *This is an all day class*

Franklin Habit

**The Knitted Plaid: An All-Day Exploration of Color and Pattern:** If the prospect of mixing colors gives you the fidgets, but you’ve dreamt of putting together your own complex color schemes for projects, this full-day class is for you. We’ll begin with an invigorating dive into practical color theory or knitters (neither as dry nor as daunting as you fear), and also bring the idea of color inspiration firmly down to earth. Then we’ll put those ideas to work, using a little-known but very beautiful method for creating a knitted plaid/tartan fabric. There will also be a discussion of the history of tartan fabrics—where they came from, how they are woven, and how to imitate woven tartan setts with the knitted technique. By popular demand, this workshop has been newly expanded to a six-hour format to allow more time for explanation, experimentation, and reviews of student projects. You can learn to design your own color schemes—all it takes is a little knowledge, a little practice, and a little playfulness. Pre-requisites: Fluency in the basic techniques of knitting. *This is an all day class*

**The Knitted Crazy Quilt: A Multi-Craft Adventure:** The crazy quilt was a Victorian mania—the perfect project for making use of scraps too valuable to throw away, or preserving scraps with sentimental value. They were exuberant, intensely personal, and gloriously free from rules. Crazy quilters famously relished additions of embroidery, appliqué, painting, and even photography to their quilts. In this full day of exploration, fun, and skill building, we’ll learn and practice the basics of a knitted version of the crazy quilt: how to plan it, how to work it, and how to embellish it. Each student will work on at least one block of his or her own devising, including the classic fancy embroidered “seams.” (No prior embroidery experience is required!) You will be encouraged to let your imagination run free, with Franklin there to Instruct, encourage, and cheer. Knitting your own crazy quilt (or table mat, or pillow cover, or…) is a wonderful way to express yourself and to use and preserve special yarns too limited to make up projects on their own. Come try it for yourself, and you’ll see. Please note, there is an additional materials fee of $5 for this class to cover notions, tools, trims, and fabrics to be provided by the instructor. *This is an all day class*
Kate Atherley

Math for Knitters: Solving the Knitters’ Number Puzzles: Everything you need to know to figure out all those tricky numbers issues you encounter in your knitting. We’ll focus on how mathematics fits into pattern reading — counting and working and keeping track. We’ll cover how to understand and work challenging instructions like “Decrease every 8 rows 10 times”, and “Increase 12 sts evenly distributed across the row”. We’ll talk about calculating yardage of partial balls of yarn, and how to ensure you’re buying enough yarn for a project. We’ll also have a discussion of gauge and what it really means — and how to deal with it if you can’t match. Suitable for newer knitters, and those who wish to get more comfortable reading patterns - it’s all about conquering your fear of the numbers and making you a more powerful knitter!

Make-or-Break Garment Skills: Knitting patterns can be quite vague, sweater patterns most of all. Instructions like “decrease every RS row 4 times” and “increase evenly across” present two types of challenges: figuring out what they mean, and then how to work them. There are so many different methods, and the choice can make all the difference in how the finished project looks — and how easy it is to put together. We’ll review key finishing tasks: setting in sleeves, and picking up neckline stitches. And we’ll talk about ways to making the finishing easier, including methods for easier and better shoulder shaping.

Custom Mittens: Winter is coming! It’s never too early in the year to prep for the cold weather. We’ll show you how to create a custom mitten — regular or fingerless! - for any hand, and any yarn. Use up your stash and keep your friends and family warm. Along the way we’ll share tips for making hand-mittens as warm and possible – from yarn choice to lining strategies, and help you deal with problem areas like ill-fitting or holey thumbs.

Intro to Brioche: Brioche knitting uses a simple and clever technique to create beautiful fabrics – deep ribs and fascinating colourwork. It’s particularly effective in two colours, and is an excellent way to tame a busy variegated yarn. This class covers the skills for working brioche patterns, including reading the sometimes-complicated instructions, and fixing mistakes. Knitters will leave with a one-of-a-kind shawl or scarf project well underway.

Alasdair Post-Quinn

Introduction to Double-Knitting: Double-knitting is a unique method of making a fabric with no “wrong” side and a built-in reversible colorwork pattern. Significantly different from the standard intarsia and Fair Isle colorwork that are so well known, double-knitting is a labor-intensive but wholly worthwhile technique to have in your repertoire. In this workshop, you’ll learn my 2-color cast-on for double-knitting, get comfortable with the techniques involved, then move into colorwork. At the end of the workshop, you should have a motif swatch and be confident that you can tackle a larger standard double-knitting pattern.

Texture in Double-Knitting: Do you love the reversible fabric of double-knitting but want something more than endless stockinette? Not quite ready for double-knit cables or lace? Add some intrigue with double-knit textures! Add purls to your reversible repertoire to expand the possibilities available to you. In a small swatch, you’ll learn a few interesting ways to add texture to your double-knitting, and the pros and cons of each. As with most of my other workshops, you’ll also learn a really clean double-knit selvedge and a bind-off that mirrors the cast-on.

Multi-Color Double-Knitting: Learn how to choose a color rotation and maintain it throughout a three-color pattern. In this workshop, you’ll get to play with three-color single-pattern as well as two-pattern double-knitting – and open new doors to design possibilities that were previously impossible (or at least improbable). You’ll also learn how to integrate the third color into a foolproof double-knit selvedge, and a bind-off that mirrors the cast-on.

Carson Demers

Knitting Happily Ever After: In this class, you’ll learn how knitting effects the “fabric that makes the fabric”- your body. By completing a “Risk of Injury” assessment in class you’ll learn how knitting contributes to those aches and pains throughout your body, and how to reduce them. This class is taught by a passionate knitter who is also a physical therapist. This is an all day class*

Swatchbuckling: In this class we’ll swatch to improve your posture, comfort, and efficiency. We’ll examine yarn tensioning techniques, and all phases of stitch creation first with simple then more challenging swatches and stitches. We’ll also look at ways to add movement to knitting to avoid stiffness and injuries caused by disuse. Swatches of basic cable and lace patterns are also made in class. Stitch patterns are provided in both charted and written formats. This is an all day class*
**RETREAT SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, September 19th**
Check in at UMass hotel and Retreat Registration before 5pm.
6:00pm: Welcome Dinner hosted by Valley Yarns and Steve and Kathy Elkins
8:00pm: Late-night knitting and socializing with cash bar in the late night lounge

**Friday, September 20th**
7:30am: Breakfast
9:00am–Noon: Morning classes
12:15–1:15pm: Lunch
1:30–4:30pm: Afternoon classes
6:00pm: Dinner with cash bar
8:00pm: Late-night knitting and socializing with cash bar in the late night lounge

**Saturday, September 21st**
7:30am: Breakfast
9:00am – Noon: Morning Classes
12:15–1:15 pm: Lunch
1:30pm – 4:30pm: Afternoon classes
4:30–6:30pm: Dinner
5:30:pm: Bus leaves for Northampton.
6:00pm: Bus leaves for Northampton
WEBS Shopping Spree with Steve and Kathy Elkins, featuring trunk shows, special deals and **FREE SHIPPING** for purchases.
9:00pm: Last bus returns to Umass Hotel. Lounge area set up with snacks and cash bar for knitting, socializing and show and tell.

**Sunday, September 22nd**
9:00am: Brunch with Keynote Speaker Dana Williams-Johnson
11:00am: Check out of hotel. WEBS will be open from noon until 2:00pm for last minute shoppers.

---

**Class Schedule**

**Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm**
Sweater Fitness Workshop (all day) | Anne Hanson
The Knitted Plaid (all day) | Franklin Habit
Knitting Happily Ever After (all day) | Carson Demers
Lace Around the World (all day) | Donna Druchunas
Math for Knitters | Kate Atherley
Introduction to Double-knitting | Alasdair Post-Quinn

**Friday, 1:30pm-4:30pm**
Sweater Fitness Workshop (cont.) | Anne Hanson
The Knitted Plaid (cont.) | Franklin Habit
Knitting Happily Ever After (cont.) | Carson Demers
Lace Around the World (cont.) | Donna Druchunas
Custom Mittens | Kate Atherley
Texture in Double-Knitting | Alasdair Post-Quinn

**Saturday, 9:00am-12:00pm**
Victorian Knitting (all day) | Donna Druchunas
The Knitted Crazy Quilt (all day) | Franklin Habit
Swatchbuckling (all day) | Carson Demers
Introduction to Double-knitting | Alasdair Post-Quinn
Shapley Shoulders | Anne Hanson
Make-or-Break Garment Skills | Kate Atherley

**Saturday, 1:30pm-4:30pm**
Victorian Knitting (all day) | Donna Druchunas
The Knitted Crazy Quilt (all day) | Franklin Habit
Swatchbuckling (all day) | Carson Demers
Welcome to the Chart Side | Anne Hanson
Multi-Color Double-Knitting | Alasdair Post-Quinn
Introduction to Brioche | Kate Atherley

---

**Retreat Prices**
Single Room Package: **$1,199**
Double (shared) Room Package: **$1,049**

*Pricing includes food, lodging, and classes*