

RKG SPRING WORKSHOPS WITH KATE ATHERLEY

APRIL 6, 7, 8 & 9, 2018

First Baptist Church of Rochester

175 Allens Creek Road

Rochester, NY 14618

FRIDAY- APRIL 6, 2018

8:00 am - 10:00 am (note time change)

Short Row Skills

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner/Intermediate

“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 shaping, and to create ruffles. In this class, we’ll discuss three or four common methods of working short rows (and hiding them, just as important!). 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.

We’ll work through a few examples of different ways of creating short rows: a simple turn, the classic wrap & turn, pinned & the Japanese variant; we demonstrate how to hide the wraps and discuss when not to. We work a mini version of a short-row sock heel, I demonstrate how to create bust shaping, and we work step-by-step through an example of converting a cast-off shoulder to a short-row shoulder.

Supplies:

- US#7 needles and scrap yarn in a light color
- A set of removable stitch markers (or coil-less safety pins)

Homework: None

10:00 am - Noon (note time change)

Crochet for Knitters

Crochet is an incredibly useful skill for the knitter. This 2 hour session teaches you how to bring the power of the crochet hook to your knitting--to pick up dropped stitches and fix mistakes, for painless seaming, for creating decorative edgings, for seaming, and for the mysterious and very useful provisional cast-on.

This class assumes the knitter has no crochet experience. We cover the basic stitches: slip stitch, single & double crochet and discuss their uses for various types of edgings--practical and decorative; seams; how to use a crochet hook to pick up stitches; and two variations of the provisional cast-on.

Skill Level: All

Supplies: A second color of scrap yarn and a US#7 crochet hook (in between a G & H)

Homework: will be sent out in Feb 2018

FRIDAY- APRIL 6, 2018 (continued)

1:30 - 4:30 pm

Fearless Finishing

Many knitters avoid a lot of garment patterns because of the finishing work required, and even the most experienced knitters often have holes in their finishing knowledge--or simply lack confidence about them. The reason is simple: information in books and patterns is often very weak in this area, leaving knitters to try to figure it out themselves. This hands-on workshop teaches practical, useful and sensible finishing skills. Along the way we'll dispel a lot of common myths, break down some common sources of confusion, and show you short-cuts that make the finishing task easier and improve the finished project. We'll cover the three key seaming methods--reviewing how to do them and where to use them, including how to set in a sleeve. We'll practice two key skills that cause problems for knitters of all experience levels: grafting (Kitchener stitch) and picking up stitches--how and where to pick them up, how to handle large numbers of picked up stitches, and what to do if you can't match the number the pattern calls for. We'll discuss blocking, weaving in ends and how the proper cast ons and cast offs can make your finishing work easier--and improve the finished result.

Skill Level: All

Supplies:

- Students should bring any projects that need finishing, the homework swatches, and a blunt-tipped darning needle

Homework: will be sent out in Feb 2018

SATURDAY - APRIL 7, 2018

9:00 am - Noon

Going My Way: Work Socks the Way You Want

Skill Level: knitters must have work a few pairs of socks

There are so many choices and preferences for sock knitting style: Toe up or Top Down; DPNs, Magic Loop, Two Circulars, or Tiny Circulars; One at a Time or Two a Time. We'll talk about all these options: the hows, the whys and the wherefores of each method, as well as the pros and cons. And we'll discuss how to convert a pattern to your favorite method.

Supplies:

- US #7 needles – as many of these as you own: DPNs, 32-40 inch circular, 2 shorter circulars; 2 colors of scrap worsted weight/medium weight yarn

Homework: None

1:30 - 4:30 pm

Next Steps in Lace Knitting

Skill Level: Intermediate; should have some lace experience

For knitters who have successfully worked one or two lace patterns, this class focuses on building lace knitting confidence and skills. We'll talk about more advanced stitchwork like double yarnovers, nupps and faggoting stitches, and knitted-on borders. We'll work a small sampler in the class, and I'll share tips on preventing mistakes, and demonstrate how to fix them without unravelling! I'll provide an overview of different shawl shapings and constructions. And we'll spend some time on answering frequently asked questions, and trouble-shooting.

Supplies:

- US#7 needles (straight or short circular), medium weight scrap yarn in a light color, and any lace pattern you'd like to work

Homework: None

SUNDAY - APRIL 8, 2018

9:00 am - Noon

Soxpertise!

Skill Level: Intermediate (student must have knitted a few pairs of socks)

You've worked a few socks, now it's time to expand your skills a bit. In this class you'll learn how to make sure the sock fits properly - starting with measuring your feet and checking pattern fit. We'll address the tricky bits like how to avoid holes at the top of your heel, how to get a tidy gusset pick up - including a special trick for eliminating the holes! - and special cast-ons and cast offs. We'll talk about the best yarns for sock knitting, and we'll provide tips for ensuring your hand-knit socks last as long as possible. If you've got questions or have run into problems, this class will tackle them!

We will review different heel shapings--band, half-handkerchief and short-row. I discuss how to add a gusset to a short-row heel for a better fit. I review heel reinforcement. I talk about toe shaping, and how to change the shape and slope--where the decreases are positioned, and the frequency of decrease. I discuss closures--grafting vs. cinching. I talk about how to add pattern stitches to a plain sock pattern. And finally, I discuss adaptations to patterns to use a non-sock yarn.

Supplies:

- US #7 needles in your preferred configuration for sock knitting, and some scrap worsted weight/medium weight yarn (two colors), a tape measure and pencil and paper

Homework: will be sent out in Feb 2018

1:30 - 4:30 pm

Stranded Colorwork for Beginners: The Cherry Fizz Hat

Skill Level: must have experience working in the round

This class will teach you everything you need to know to be a confident Fair Isle knitter, and get you well on your way to making this wonderful hat project. It looks gratifyingly complicated, but it's remarkably simple: the patterning is designed specifically to be easy for even the newest color knitter. You'll master reading the patterns and charts, working with multiple colors, both one-handed and two handed methods, bot in the round and flat. We work through a mini hat, enabling the knitter to learn all the key skills: corrugated ribbing, reading the charts for and working the color pattern, and decreasing in the pattern.

Supplies:

- 200 yds of two different colors of medium weight yarn; US#7 DPN or long circular for magic loop method

Homework: None

MONDAY - APRIL 9, 2018

9:00 am - Noon

Next Steps in Cabling

Skill Level: Must have some cable knitting experience

We will learn to speed up your cable knitting and expand your skills by learning to work cables without a cable needle. We work through a variety of swatches, starting with a 2-stitch "mock cables", and knit-over-purl twists, and then move up to multi-stitch cables. Emphasis on practising the technique. I also discuss yarn and project types that lend themselves to abandoning the cable needle, and those that don't (i.e. wool or yarns with some friction are better than fibers like silk).

Then we will build some cable confidence with a cable sampler cowl that includes reversible cables, edging cables, celtic cables, and other techniques--lots of different types of turns to practice! We'll also learn to include buttonholes in the edging.

Supplies:

- Scrap yarn in a light color and matching needles (medium weight at US#7 or 8 needles are recommended)
- For sampler cowl: 200 yds chunky weight yarn (Cascade 128, Lion Brand Wool-Ease Chunky, Berroco Vintage Chunky); US #9 needles, cable needle

Homework: None

1:30 - 4:30 pm

Expert Tips/Best Methods/Better Edges

Skill Level: All

There's a broad variety of methods for increasing, decreasing, casting on and casting off. In this class, I'll review four or five major methods for each, discussing the pros and cons, what they look like, and where they are best used. We'll also discuss placement of increases and decreases to make finishing easier and make the finished project look better. Casting On: long tail, backwards loop, provisional, cable, knitted. Key factors: stretchiness vs firmness. Casting off: normal--with larger needle, Elizabeth Zimmermann's sewn, Russian lace knit & purl variants, the "Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind Off" from Knitty.com. Key factors: stretchiness vs firmness, making it match the cast-on. Increases: lifted left & right, backwards loop, yarnover, kfb. Key Factors: visibility, directionality. Decreases: K2tog vs skp vs ssk vs k2tbl; (sl2 tog, k1, pss0) vs (sl 1, k2tog, pss0); p2tog vs ssp. Key factors: visibility, directionality.

Struggling with too-tight edges? Can't get your mittens on? Garment necklines too tight? This session will review techniques for ensuring stretchy edges, including the cast ons and bind offs we've learned. We'll also talk about how to make the side edges of your pieces better, whether for one-piece items like scarves or for pieces that are to be sewn up.

Supplies:

- 2 sets of needles US#6 - 8 and two colors medium-weight yarn;

Homework: will be sent out in Feb 2018