

2022 FALL/WINTER CLASSES

KNITTING

Knitting Club

Monday mornings (10:00 a.m. – noon) September 19 – December 12

\$60 for 12 weeks

OR Tuesday afternoons (1:00 – 3:00 p.m.) September 13 – December 13

\$70 for 14 weeks

OR NEW SESSION!!! Wednesday mornings (10:00 a.m. – noon) September 14 – December 14

(we will begin this session when we get 4 people; give us a call to sign up)

\$70 for 14 weeks

OR Thursday afternoons (1:00 – 3:00 p.m.) September 15 – December 15

\$65 for 13 weeks

OR Thursday evenings (7:00 – 9:00 p.m.) September 15 – December 15

\$65 for 13 weeks

OR Friday mornings (10:00 a.m. – noon) September 16 – December 16

\$65 for 14 weeks

Advisors: Suzanne Kelly, Carol Quinn, Karen Johnson

This is not a class, but a "support" group for beginners through advanced knitters. Bring your own projects and enjoy the company (and knowledge) of other knitters. One of our staff is always available if you need more help than the group can give you. Some knitting experience is required: you must know how to knit and purl. Members receive a \$5 merchandise credit for each week in attendance PLUS 10% OFF all yarn. Feel free to join anytime, even after the sessions have started. (We will prorate the fee). *Not sure if this is for you? Try a class for free.*

Knitting for Beginners

Maximum 6 participants

Sunday (1 – 3 p.m.) October 16 **AND** 23

\$75

Instructor: Ginny Soma

This class is designed for new knitters as well as anyone needing a refresher. In the first class, we will discuss different yarns, needles, and tools; we will then concentrate on learning to cast on, knit, and increase and decrease stitches. In the second class, the purl stitch will be introduced and we will work on making a gauge swatch. Students will then be able to apply what they learn to their own individual projects. **Materials:** Please bring a skein of worsted-weight yarn and size 7 or 8 straight needles. You may bring your own or purchase them at the shop (yarn will be discounted 10%).

FELTING

Two-Part Painting with Wool

Minimum 4 participants; ages 12 and up

Wednesdays (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.) October 12 **AND** 19

\$65, includes materials

Instructor: Rachel Benson

Join fiber artist Rachel Benson to learn how to paint with wool. You will be guided step-by-step in the process to create your own whimsical piece of felted wall art inspired by flowers. Finished pieces will vary in size but will be close to 8x10 inches. In the first class you will learn the art of wet felting while creating your own fabric base. The second class will focus on needle felting as we go back into our image to add details and depth. *Please bring a towel or two for our first meeting.*

Needle-Felted Snowy Owl

Maximum 4 participants

Wednesday (10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.) November 30 **AND** December 7

\$60

Instructor: Harry Reardon-Daley

Learn to create this beautiful snowy owl. Using neutral-colored wool for a base and shaping and alpaca fiber as the top layer creates a soft and cute owl that is perfect for the season. The finished item is approximately 8" in diameter by 11" tall. **Prerequisite:** you must have a basic understanding of needle felting and be able to create basic shapes.

Materials (not included): Please bring neutral, black, and brown wool fiber; a felting needle with a handle; a felting matt; 9mm safety eyes or glass eyes. Alpaca fiber for the top coat will be provided.

CROCHET

Beginner Crochet Technique Series

Maximum 6 participants

Wednesday (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) October 5 AND 12

\$100

Instructor: Harry Reardon-Daley

Suitable for the absolute beginner, this class will teach the techniques needed to create a 7-by-9-inch afghan section. In this two-part course, you will learn how to hold the hook and keep correct tension as well as how to make a foundation chain, single crochet, and half-double crochet stitches. The first class will start with learning how to keep tension on a gauge swatch and how to measure your gauge. Students will learn to make the half-double crochet stitch once the first gauge swatch is completed.

Tunisian Pattern Stitch Technique Series

Maximum 6 participants

Class One: Tunisian Rib Stitch

Wednesday (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) November 2

Prerequisite: Tunisian Knit Stitch (TKS), Tunisian Purl Stitch (TPS)

Class Two: Tunisian Checker Stitch

Wednesday (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) November 9

Prerequisite: Tunisian Simple Stitch (TSS), Tunisian Reverse Stitch (TRS)

Class Three: Tunisian Basket Weave Stitch

Wednesday (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) November 16

Prerequisite: Tunisian Knit Stitch (TKS), Tunisian Purl Stitch (TPS)

Class Four: Tunisian Diamond Stitch

Wednesday (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) November 23

Prerequisite: Tunisian Simple Stitch (TSS), Tunisian Reverse Stitch (TRS)

\$45 each class; take all 4 for \$150

Instructor: Harry Reardon-Daley

In this series of four Tunisian pattern stitches, you will learn to use the Tunisian simple, reverse, knit, and purl stitches to create beautiful textured stitches. Class will start with a demonstration of the stitch and then students will work on a gauge swatch with their chosen yarn. After the gauge swatch, it is suggested to continue with a 7-by-9-inch afghan section. The sample (stop by the shop to see it) uses DK weight alpaca yarn from a local alpaca farm.

SPINNING

Spinning Club

First Monday of each month (1 – 3 p.m.)

No charge

Advisor: Suzanne Kelly

This is a drop-in class. Join us to sit, spin and relax with your wheel or spindle once a month. We'll share techniques, tips, and conversation. All levels are welcome. Participants will receive 10% OFF spinning fibers the days the club meets..

Beginning Drop Spindle

Minimum 3 participants, max 6; one 4-hour class

Thursday (5:30 – 8:30 p.m.) October 6

OR Sunday (1 – 4 p.m.) October 30

\$50 includes materials

Instructor: Penny Lacroix

Love fiber? Love yarn? Learn to make your own yarn from commercially prepared wool fibers using a drop spindle. Spinning with a drop spindle is relaxing and portable. Students may bring their own drop spindle, borrow one from the instructor, or purchase one at the shop. Each student in this half-day class will go home with a small skein of handspun yarn.

Beginning Spinning on a Wheel

Minimum 3 participants, max 5; one 4-hour class

Wednesday (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) September 21

OR Saturday (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) October 15

\$75 includes materials

Instructor: Penny Lacroix

Do you want to be able to spin your own yarn for knitting, weaving or gifting? Do you want to try different wheels to see what works best for you? Do you want to understand the difference between roving and top, and how to use them? Students will learn to spin from different types of commercially prepared fiber and try several types of wheels. Equipment and fiber will be provided for use in the class. Students may bring their own wheel in good working order if they have one.

Great Wheel Spinning

Minimum 3 participants; one 2.5- to 3-hour class

This class is not scheduled. If you are interested in taking it, please call to put your name on a list.

\$50 includes materials

Instructor: Penny Lacroix

Are you interested in learning to spin on a Great Wheel/Wool Wheel/Walking Wheel? This is a rare opportunity to learn to use the wheel that was left in your grandmother's house, or the one you picked up at an antique store, or the one at the historic house where you volunteer. Students will practice different techniques with a variety of fibers. Learn to dance with the wheel!

Prerequisite: Students must already know how to spin. Being able to bring your own great wheel is preferred, but arrangements may be made to rent one.

WEAVING

Weavers' Study Group

Tuesday mornings (10 a.m. - noon) starts September 13

\$5 per week

New members welcome anytime (we will prorate the fee)! This is an ongoing group who meet weekly to explore various weaving topics. The members collectively decide upon the subjects to be studied and participate in the research of applicable reference materials. All levels of expertise are invited.

Members receive a \$5 merchandise credit for each week in attendance PLUS 10% OFF all yarn.

Beginning Weaving

Minimum 3 participants, max 5; two 6-hour classes

Friday (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) September 23 AND 30

OR Saturday (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) October 29 AND November 5

\$200 plus materials (includes loom rental fee)

Instructor: Penny Lacroix

This 2-day class is a start-to-finish beginning weaving experience on a 4-shaft loom. The first day, students are guided through measuring out a warp, beaming the warp, sleying the reed and threading the heddles. The first few rows of weaving will be complete before the end of the day. The looms go home along with students with instructions for weaving a sampler between the classes. Support is available between the classes. On the second day, the samplers are completed and we take a step back to get an introduction to project planning and drafting. Portable 4-shaft tabletop looms are provided for use during and between the classes as part of the class fee. An additional materials fee covers the yarn used for the sampler. Materials fee: cost of 6-9 oz perle cotton (~\$2 per ounce) and the optional purchase of *Learning to Weave* by Debbie Chandler.

Special offer for Beginning Weaving only: Take the class with a friend for just \$30 more! You'll work on one loom and make one sampler, but you will both learn just as much!.

Advanced Beginning Weaving Series

Minimum 3 participants, maximum 10

Mondays (10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.) September 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

\$50 each individual class; entire 8-class series \$300

Instructor: Penny Lacroix

This series is designed for those who have taken a beginner class and want to know more. There will not be any weaving in the class, but optional homework will be suggested for those who wish to put the class concepts into practice. These topics only touch the tip of the iceberg in the weaving world. They are intended to give a formal introduction and lead participants to further exploration. In all the classes, handouts and references for suggested reading will be provided. Although the classes focus on multi-shaft looms and weavers, most topics also apply to rigid heddle weavers.

WEEK 1 (September 12) *A detailed look at yarn:* Yarn is the basis of weaving. In order to understand how to put yarns together to make a textile, weavers need to understand the characteristics of the yarns. This class is also appropriate for spinners who want to understand more about the yarn they are making and how it can be utilized. These are some of the topics that will be covered.

- Tools for yarn exploration
- Fiber content identification
- Weight/grist
- Twist
- Strength
- Elasticity

WEEK 2 (September 19) *Project planning:* Planning a project from scratch may be the most intimidating obstacle for new weavers. By approaching it methodically, it can be made manageable and less daunting. Online tools can help those terrified by the math, while worksheets will provide steps for those who enjoy the manual calculations.

- Choosing a project
- Selecting yarns
- Designing and drafting
- Yardage calculations
- Loom choice
- Weaver ability
- Yarn substitutions
- Note keeping and documentation

WEEK 3 (September 26) *All about looms and how to buy one:* Buying a first looms is perhaps the first big decision for a new weaver. The expense is not insignificant, and the trade-offs of size vs. functionality can be difficult to analyze. Future weaving is also a consideration.

- comparison of types of looms
- various loom makers (both current and historical)
- options for looms
- how many shafts and treadles?
- how to look for and buy a loom
- loom maintenance and repair
- tools

WEEK 4 (October 3) *Drafting:* A weaver's first attempt at reading and creating drafts can be like learning a foreign language, in code. Exposure to various styles of drafts will help enable new weavers to recognize the elements of any draft they encounter. Digitally based resources and tools will also be introduced.

- Reading drafts of all kinds
- Creating drafts
- Treadling and tie-ups
- Intro to computer drafting
- Handweaving.net

WEEK 5 (October 10) *Effective use of samples and gamps:* "Sample, sample, sample" is heard everywhere in the weaving community. This class will explain the why and how of using both samples and gamps effectively. It will present specific examples to illustrate the benefits and uses. Participants will plan their own gamps which can be woven at home later if they are inspired.

- Why samples and gamps
- Examples
- How to design them

WEEK 6 (October 17) *Overview of structures and common patterns:* Weavers have an entire vocabulary of patterns. A first look at the drafts and fabrics, will help newer weavers to associate the various names with their associated patterns and to understand the relative complexity and weavability of them.

- Plain weave, twill and satin
- Lace weaves
- Overshot
- Summer & Winter
- Doubleweaves

WEEK 7 (October 24) *Designing with color:* Color is a complex subject that people can devote a lifetime to exploring. There are tools available to weavers (and other artists) that help both the intuitive colorist and designers who lack confidence in their own color sense. With those tools, there are then techniques for designing handwoven textile patterns with a rational basis.

- Using color wheels
- Wraps
- Proportions (Fibonacci series, geometric, linear, blending)
- Name drafts
- Shadow weave

WEEK 8 (October 31) *Finishing and sewing handwovens:* Weaving is one step of many in the production of a finished textile. Having a repertoire of finishing techniques will enable the handweaver to complete projects that result in useful, desirable and durable products.

- Wet finishing
- Finishing techniques (on and off the loom)
- Cutting handwovens
- Seams for handwovens
- Handwovens for sewing

SUPPLY LIST FOR ALL CLASSES

- Note taking paper
- Graph paper
- Pencil
- A good eraser
- Colored pencils or markers
- 12" ruler
- Calculator (or phone)
- Scissors
- Glasses (if you use them)
- Snack/water

Scarf in a Day

One participant at a time

Call to schedule a date – allow 4 hours

\$75 includes materials, instruction and use of the pre-warped loom for a day

Come in and weave a rayon chenille scarf on a pre-warped loom. You will receive personal instructions on how to wind bobbins and weave the scarf.

You'll weave the scarf on your own, but someone will be available for questions. When you are done weaving, you cut the scarf off the loom and take it home for finishing. Fringing and washing instructions will be provided. No need to invest in a loom, warping, or materials. Let us do that for you!

Introduction to Rigid Heddle Weaving

Minimum 2 participants, maximum 5

Tuesday (1:30 – 4:30 p.m.) September 20 AND October 4

\$85 includes materials

Instructor: Leslie Ardison

Have you been wanting to try weaving? Or do you need a refresher on how to warp your rigid heddle loom? We will dress the loom and you'll be able to start to weave a scarf. You will finish weaving at home, then come back to class to learn one method of finishing the scarf. A limited number of looms are available to use or you may bring your own loom.

Beyond Plain Weave for the Rigid Heddle

Minimum 2 participants, maximum 5

The following classes are for weavers who would like to try new techniques. Students must have either taken the rigid heddle introduction class or are already comfortable warping and weaving on a rigid heddle loom. Unless otherwise noted, bring your rigid heddle loom already warped. You will receive instructions on what to warp when you sign up for the class.

Tuesdays (1:30 – 4:30 p.m.) see dates below

\$45 per class, includes materials unless otherwise noted

Instructor: Leslie Ardison

October 18 ~ Color and Weave

See how using different color patterns in your warp and weft will give you a variety of patterns such as pinwheel and log cabin. *We will warp the loom in class* for a Color-and-Weave-Gamp and start weaving. Students will finish weaving their gamp at home.

November 1 ~ Clasp Weft

You will bring your loom already warped and ready to weave.

November 15 ~ Pick Up Stick Techniques

Let's play with pick up sticks to see how you can get more patterns than just a simple plain weave. There are lots of possibilities! This will be one class, but if we have fun and you want to pursue more, we can set up a second class.

November 29 ~ Hand-Manipulated Techniques I

Learn Leno (sometimes called Leno Lace), a hand-manipulated weave that puts a twist in your weaving. We will weave different Leno techniques in a sampler.

December 13 ~ Hand-Manipulated Techniques II

Students will learn Brooks Bouquet, Spanish Lace, and, if time, Spanish Medallions. You do not have to take the *Hand Manipulated Techniques I* class to attend this class.

Inkle Weaving

Minimum 3 participants, max 5; one 5-hour session

Saturday (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) September 24

OR Wednesday (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) November 16

\$75 (includes borrowing a loom during the class if needed)

Instructor: Penny Lacroix

Inkle weaving is a simple and inexpensive way to weave narrow bands of fabric. There are limitless possibilities of color design. Participants will learn to make heddles and efficiently warp the loom in different color patterns and will weave a narrow band, bookmarks, or shoelaces. *When signing up, please indicate whether you have an inkle loom or not.* Some looms are available to borrow for the class and will be available for purchase at a discount following the class. There will be a break for lunch.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Want to take a class but can't make the scheduled session? We offer **private spinning or 4-harness weaving lessons** at \$35 per hour by *Penny Lacroix*. Our **private rigid heddle weaving lessons** are \$35 per hour and are taught by *Ann Murphy*. Give us a call at 978-456-8669 for more information or to set up an appointment.

OUR INSTRUCTORS

Rachel Benson is a fiber artist working primarily with needle felting and other media to create whimsical images of nature, both realistic and abstract. She is passionate about creating and encourages students to experiment, play, invent, and focus on the journey of art making rather than the final outcome. Rachel is currently represented by Fruitlands Museum Store, Periwinkle Glassworks and the Wild Little Art Shop. Rachel has been teaching art classes for the last 6 years in her private business, The Fiber Web along with other local venues. To see some of her art, visit her Instagram or portfolio at: <https://www.instagram.com/thefiberweb/>; <https://www.facebook.com/fiberartbyrachel/>; <https://rachelbenson.carbonmade.com>.

Rebecca Brown taught herself to knit 15 years ago and has loved connecting with fellow knitters and learning new techniques ever since. She moved to Harvard in the spring of 2017 and began teaching and supporting others in their knitting at the Fiber Loft not long after. Rebecca has worked with kids and people brand-new to knitting, converted many of her colleagues into knitters, and helped folks come back to knitting after a long hiatus. Her favorite type of project is a sweater, and she always has at least two projects going!

Penny Lacroix is a weaver, spinner, knitter, dyer and lover of all things fiber. As a historian, she appreciates the manual creation of useful products and enjoys sharing this knowledge and skill with others. She's been weaving and spinning since 2000 and also teaches at the Weavers' Guild of Boston and other venues. She is a member of the Boston Area Spinners and Dyers and is co-chair of the Nashoba Valley Weavers' Guild. See her work at <http://pennylacroix.com> and www.instagram.com/penoix/

Ann Murphy is a weaver and spinner. She has been weaving since the 1970s and is proficient in both 4-harness and rigid-heddle weaving. Ann belongs to both the Boston Area Spinners and Dyers Guild and the Boston Weavers Guild.

Harry Reardon-Daley is a Craft Yarn Council Certified Instructor. Harry has taught both in nursing homes (he is a Certified Activity Director) and various other settings (such as Fabrics n Things). He will provide in-home instruction for a groups of three or more people. To see samples of his work, visit his Facebook page: Harry's Hooks And Needles.

THINGS TO KNOW

We accept Master Card, Visa, Discover, and American Express, as well as checks and cash. Phone registration accepted with credit card. Tuition for classes will be charged 4 days prior to a session. No refunds after that time. Tuitions will be refunded if class is cancelled.

All materials can be bought at the Fiber Loft, either ahead of time or the day of the class.

Unless otherwise noted in the class listing, the cost of materials is additional. While enrolled in a class at the Fiber Loft, students receive a *10% discount* on yarns and fibers. Teenagers are welcome in all adult classes. Please plan on either bringing your lunch or buying it elsewhere for those classes that run all day.

If the weather is bad, check our Facebook page for information on either the shop closing for the day or opening late.