



WEBS Knitting Retreat Fall 2026



WEBS Knitting Retreat

September 17th – 20th 2026

Embrace the season with a weekend of fiber, friends, food, and foliage in the beautiful Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts.

This year's retreat offers hands-on, expert-led classes, inspiring presentations from industry leaders and vendors, and vibrant late-night knitting lounges. Connect with fellow knitters, share your creative journey, and enjoy an exclusive night of after-hours shopping at America's largest yarn store – the ultimate pilgrimage for every passionate knitter!

Whether you're here to learn, connect, or simply soak in the colors of fall, this retreat is the perfect way to unwind, recharge, and find inspiration among like-minded creatives.

What's Included?



All Meals

Enjoy every meal from the Thursday night Welcome Dinner through Sunday Brunch, featuring a keynote speech from Beth Brown-Reinsel.



Late-Night Knitting Lounges

Gather for snacks, desserts, drinks, and plenty of yarn talk. Find new knitting companions, connect with old friends, and be inspired by the vibrant community.



Hands-On Classes

Two full days of expert-led workshops on Friday and Saturday with some of the most talented instructors in the knitting world.



Exclusive WEBS Shopping Spree

Enjoy an after-hours shopping event at America's largest yarn store on Saturday evening – perfect for finding those special skeins and must-have tools.



Stitch & Stash Tote Bag

Take home a custom tote bag, packed with yarn and other treats to fuel your next projects.



Special Events

On Saturday night, enjoy a private shopping spree at WEBS, complete with the chance to chat with some of our incredible vendor partners about their yarns, designs, and collections. Even better – you'll receive FREE SHIPPING on all your purchases!

Our generous vendor partners; Rowan, Cascade, Berroco, Malabrigo, and Katrinkles are here to make your weekend as unique and luxurious as possible, starting with exclusive additions to your sumptuous Stitch & Stash tote bag. They'll also be showcasing their most popular yarns, garments, and designs through trunk shows and live demos. Don't miss this chance to connect with the people behind the brands you love!

Accommodation

Nestled in the heart of the scenic UMass Amherst campus, Hotel UMass offers modern, comfortable accommodation in the heart of the Pioneer Valley. Colorwork and Cable Package guests will enjoy spacious rooms, top-tier amenities, and convenient access to retreat events – all just steps away from the vibrant campus community and a short drive from charming local towns and attractions.

Our Lace Package is perfect for commuters or those who prefer to stay off-campus.

Before you head home on Sunday, take some time to explore the charming streets of downtown Northampton. Enjoy a late lunch, wander through local boutiques and artisan galleries, and leave with cherished memories, new friendships, and fresh inspiration – the perfect way to wrap up your retreat and start dreaming about our 2027 WEBS Knitting Retreats!

Retreat Packages:

Colorwork Package: \$1,700

Includes all meals, classes and presentations, Late Night Lounge events, shopping night with free shipping, Stitch & Stash tote, and 3 nights of (single/private) room accommodation!

Cable Package: \$1,550

Includes all meals, classes and presentations, Late Night Lounge events, shopping night with free shipping, Stitch & Stash tote, and 3 nights of (double/shared) room accommodation!

Lace Package: \$995

Includes all meals, classes and presentations, Late Night Lounge events, shopping night with free shipping, and a Stitch & Stash tote! (The Lace Package does not include overnight accommodation)



Retreat Schedule

Thursday, September 17th

3:00pm – 5:00pm Check into hotel
 5:30pm Welcome Dinner
 7:30pm – 9:00pm Late Night Lounge

Friday, September 18th

7:15am – 8:00am Morning Meditation
 8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast
 9:15am – 12:15pm Morning Classes
 12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch
 2:00pm – 5:00pm Afternoon Classes
 6:00pm – 7:00pm Dinner
 7:30pm – 9:00pm Late Night Lounge
 9:00pm – 10:00pm Late Late Night Lounge

Saturday, September 19th

7:15am – 8:00am Morning Meditation
 8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast
 9:15am – 12:15pm Morning Classes
 12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch
 2:00pm – 5:00pm Afternoon Classes
 5:00pm – 6:00pm Boxed Dinner Pick Up
 5:30pm – 8:00pm WEBS Shopping Night
 8:15pm – 9:30pm Late Night Lounge

Sunday, September 20th

9:30am – 11:00am Brunch with Keynote Speaker
 12pm deadline Checkout of hotel

	Friday AM	Friday PM	Saturday AM	Saturday PM
Kate Atherley	Intro to Garment Alterations	Shawl Skills: Perfect Starts and Finishes	Next Steps in Lace Knitting	Conquer Grafting
Beth Brown-Reinsel	Braids And Cords	Baltic Cast-Ons	Unique Latvian Cuffs	Introduction To Twined Knitting
Xandy Peters	Intro to Algorithmic Stitch Patterns	Introduction to Brioche Class	Fixing Mistakes in Brioche Knitting	Color-Blocked Brioche Class
Nina Machlin-Dayton	Mastering Knitting From Charts	Thread Wrapped Dorset/Death's Head Buttons	Garter Stitch Mosaic Knitting	Cabling Without a Cable Needle
Mary Ann Gebhardt	Morning Meditation	Yoga for Knitting & Crochet	Morning Meditation	Yoga for Knitting & Crochet
Ashley Flagg			Fiber Theory	Fiber Theory
Malinda Lesko	Color Theory	Color Theory		



Kate Atherley

Kate is an internationally known knitting author, teacher, and editor. She has written nine books about various aspects of knitting, including a series of four about customizing projects for perfect fit and style. The combination of her university degree in mathematics, professional experience in software development and usability, and training in garment and fashion design give her a unique perspective. She lives in Toronto with her husband and their rescue dog Winnie.

Find Kate online at: www.kateatherley.com

Classes

Intro to Garment Alterations

Found the perfect pattern but can't match gauge? Need to adjust the size, change a neckline, or alter sleeve and body lengths? Learn low-risk, efficient strategies to confidently modify garments. We'll also discuss how to choose easily altered patterns and use existing designs as a launchpad for your own inspiration.



Shawl Skills: Perfect Starts and Finishes

Shawls are perfect year-round projects for all skill levels. Make your shawl knitting even more enjoyable by mastering key techniques: demystify the garter tab cast-on, learn elastic, stretchy bind-offs, and discover hassle-free methods for professional blocking (without special equipment) and weaving in ends.



Next Steps in Lace Knitting

Ready to go beyond basic lace? Build your confidence by mastering advanced techniques like double yarnovers, nupps, faggoting, and knitted-on borders.

You'll learn how to fix mistakes without unraveling, explore different shawl shapes, and get expert troubleshooting tips.



Conquer Grafting

Take the fear out of grafting! Build confidence with hands-on practice, memory tips, and easy fixes for mistakes. You'll master grafting stockinette, garter stitch, ribbing, and even learn clever tricks to avoid grafting altogether.



Beth Brown-Reinsel

Beth has been teaching historic knitting for over 30 years, sharing her deep love of traditional methods with knitters around the world. Known for her warm, supportive teaching style, Beth's workshops feature her signature "little sweater" samplers, which teach garment construction in context rather than through abstract swatches.

She is the author of the classic *Knitting Ganseys*, expanded and revised in 2018, and has also produced instructional DVDs and an online class for [Craftsy.com](https://www.craftsy.com). A favorite of guilds, shops, and national conferences, Beth lives in Vermont and draws inspiration from New England winters.

Classes



Braids And Cords

Knit a sampler in the round during this 3-hour class, mastering beautiful Swedish and Baltic braids. You'll learn the braided cast-on, Latvian braid, Estonian cording, Kihnu Vits, and a multi-color bind-off to elevate your knitting.



Baltic Cast-Ons

Master durable, elastic Baltic cast-ons perfect for socks and mittens. Knit samples of the Herringbone, Estonian Kihnu Troi, and two Hiiumaa cast-ons to see how they behave. Bonus: explore a Latvian Twisted Garter edge!



Unique Latvian Cuffs

Explore the beautiful tradition of Latvian mitten cuffs. In this class, you will start three unique styles in the round—scalloped, twisted garter, and biased "ribbing" to finish as wristers or mittens. We'll also discuss Latvian knitting history, decorative braids, afterthought thumbs, and pointed-tip shaping.



Introduction To Twined Knitting

Discover the 400-year-old technique of Twined Knitting to create exceptionally warm, elastic fabric. In this 3-hour class, knit a wrister while mastering traditional cast-ons, twined stitches (including "O" stitch and Chain Path), chart reading, and effortless yarn management.



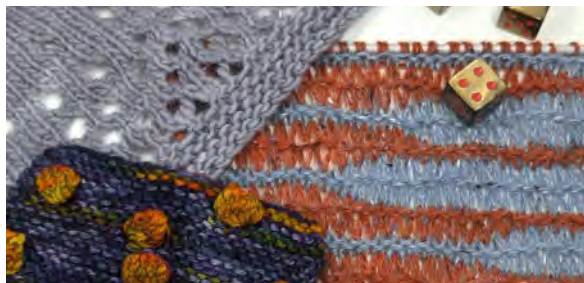
Xandy Peters

Xandy Peters is a knitting designer and teacher, best known as the innovator of the stacked stitch technique and for the Fox Paws pattern.

Starting out as a footwear and product designer, he turned to knitting as a way to explore textiles and surfaces without using factory production and has since made a career out of publishing new patterns and teaching workshops.

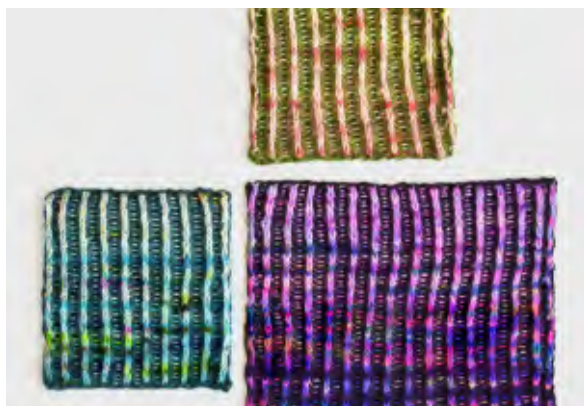
Xandy has been published in magazines such as Vogue Knitting, Twist Collective, Knitscene, Knitty, and Pom Pom Quarterly, has a Craftsy class teaching the stacked stitch technique and continues to self publish patterns on a regular basis.

Classes



Intro to Algorithmic Stitch Patterns

Ditch restrictive patterns and create unique texture, color, or lace using rule-based guides! Learn to design motifs using random data like dice rolls, daily steps, or temperature charts. You'll draft your own rules to knit a custom swatch or mini-shawl in class.



Introduction to Brioche Class

Demystify brioche by knitting a basic swatch and mastering its unique terms and symbols. Focus on flat, two-color brioche, learn to troubleshoot common mistakes, and get tips for working with one color or in the round.



Fixing Mistakes in Brioche Knitting

Love brioche but dread mistakes? Master the skills to confidently fix them. You'll analyze brioche structure, learn to rip back safely, fix laddered stitches, correct missed increases or decreases, and easily spot dropped, twisted, or mismatched tuck stitches.



Color-Blocked Brioche Class

Discover why intarsia is actually easier with two-color brioche than stockinette! Review brioche basics, cast on flat, and use shaping to knit a wavy colorwork swatch. You'll also learn to modify your project, work in the round, and add intarsia elements to existing patterns.



Nina Machlin-Dayton

Nina Machlin Dayton has been knitting and designing, and teaching knitting and design, for over 45 years. Her first professional knitting job was back in the 1980's when she did handknitting for couturier designer Joan Vass, and she has never looked back. She was honored to be included in season 6 of Knit Stars and leads the team that created and runs the annual Indie Design Gift-A-Long on Ravelry. A native New Yorker, she now lives in the beautiful Pioneer Valley in western Massachusetts, in an old Victorian house stuffed to the rafters with books and yarn where she is constantly knitting new designs and dreaming up new classes, blending a deep love for vintage style with her passion for creative community.

Classes



Mastering Knitting From Charts

Together we will do a deep dive into knitting from charts, demystifying everything about them! We will learn about ways of understanding charts for texture, lace, cables, and colorwork as well as ways of keeping track of where you are, understanding the symbols, and differences between charts for knitting flat and those for knitting in the round. We will look at unusually shaped charts, charts with repeats, and different ways the same pattern might be charted. You will leave this class with a clear understanding of how to tackle any knitting chart you encounter with confidence and ease!

Garter Stitch Mosaic Knitting

Mosaic knitting is a brilliant technique that allows us to create complex colorwork in our knitting using only 1 color at a time! Together we will learn the techniques needed to complete the Balabusta tea towel and dishcloth pattern that is included with this class.

Thread Wrapped Dorset/Death's Head Buttons

Together we will look at the history and techniques involved with creating Dorset Buttons which are historical thread wrapped buttons that we can use to elevate our knit and non-knit pieces. We will learn about the standard design for these as well as look at some beautiful alternatives, learn about traditional materials and modern equivalents. Students will leave this course having made at least 1 yarn wrapped buttons and the knowledge of how to make hundreds more!



Cabling Without a Cable Needle

Leave your cable needle at home and learn to work cables without an extra tool. Together we will learn and practice how to work 2, 4, and 6 stitch cables, knits over knits and knits over purls, crossing left, right, front and back, all without an extra cable needle to hold our stitches. Students must be able to work from charts.



Mary Ann Gebhardt

Mary Ann Gebhardt is a yoga instructor, meditation teacher, and lifelong fiber artist offering gentle yoga for knitters in the afternoons, along with morning meditation sessions on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Her approach blends mindful movement, breathwork, and stillness to support relaxation, focus, and creative flow. Mary Ann is back by popular demand for her intrinsic ability in helping knitters care for their bodies while fully enjoying their craft.

Follow her on Instagram: [@mary-ann-gebhardt](#)

Classes



Morning Meditation

Begin your day by coming home to your breath.

Gentle stretches, guided meditation, and the soothing sounds of Tibetan singing bowls create a peaceful space for quiet reflection. As the mind settles and the breath deepens, you may discover that one mindful moment, or one positive thought, can gently shape the rhythm of your entire day.



Yoga for Knitting & Crochet

Created especially for knitters and crocheters, this gentle practice helps release the tension that can build after hours of making. Together, we'll soften the shoulders, awaken the hands, and ease the neck and back with simple, mindful movement inspired by yoga.

Whether you knit, crochet, spin, weave, or simply love working with your hands, this practice invites you to come home to your body—one breath, one movement at a time.

All are welcome. No yoga experience is needed. Practice seated in a chair or on a mat. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one.



Ashley Flagg

Ashley Flagg learned to crochet in college, then got a friend to show her how to knit and purl in 2005, and spinning took over her life completely when she was handed a drop spindle in 2006.

Designing with intention led her to start her own handspun yarn business, Artemisia Ink Studio Arts, in 2007, and she began teaching fiber arts classes professionally in 2008. Passionate about empowerment through information, she loves seeing students delight in projects that turn out exactly as they hoped for. Ashley is always looking for a nice comfy chair to perch in with a book and a spindle!

Classes

Fiber Theory

Trying to decide which fiber to use? Wondering how fast a certain yarn might start to pill? Not sure how to substitute a yarn and get the right gauge for a pattern? This lecture-style class will explore the wide world of yarn, and will cover how yarns are made and structured, the different fibers used, their unique properties, and how these factors combine to influence your finished fabrics. Learn how to choose the perfect yarn for all your projects and how to care for them for years of enjoyment.



Malinda Lesko

With a background in fiber science and apparel design, Malinda brings creativity to her community-focused small business, Alchemy Fiber Mill. Her love for fiber started young, with sewing but now she calls herself a woman of many stashes; fabric, yarn, thread, paper, if you can make it, she has some.

Malinda creates a warm space where people feel empowered to explore their creativity, meet fellow fiber lovers, and learn new skills. At Alchemy, she hosts classes, workshops, and events like monthly Fiber Lounges. When not at the Mill or “fiberling,” you’ll find Malinda reading, running, or snuggling her rescue pittie. She lives in Western Massachusetts with her husband and their yarn-loving dog.

Classes



Color Theory

Unlock the secrets of color to elevate your fiber projects! In this class, you’ll learn the fundamentals of color theory – including hue, value, and contrast – and how they apply to yarn selection and stitch patterns. Discover how to combine colors confidently, create harmonious palettes, and get the results you want. Whether you’re planning your next sweater or exploring colorwork techniques, this class will help you make informed, creative color decisions that bring your projects to life. Great for yarnies of all levels.