





WEBS Fall Knitting Retreat

September 18th – 21st

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 the legendary Lily Chin.



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!

Can’t make up your mind on Saturday? No worries – the store will be open to retreat attendees again on Sunday, with FREE SHIPPING still included.

Our generous vendor partners 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. Worsted and DK 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 Sport Package is perfect for commuters or those who prefer to stay off-campus. For added convenience, we’ve reserved a small block of rooms at the Comfort Inn and Suites, less than a 10-minute drive from the UMass campus. These rooms can be booked directly through the hotel. 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 2026 WEBS Knitting Retreats!

Retreat Packages:

Worsted Package: \$1,699

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!

DK Package: \$1,549

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!

Sport Package: \$999

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



Retreat Schedule

Thursday, September 18th

3:00pm – 5:00pm: Check in to Hotel UMass
and Retreat Registration

6:00pm – 7:30pm: Welcome Dinner

8:00pm – 9:30pm: Late Night Lounge

Friday, September 19th

8:00am – 9:00am: Breakfast

9:15am – 12:15pm: Morning Classes

12:30pm – 1:30pm: Lunch with Drop In Corner

2:00pm – 5:00pm: Afternoon Classes

6:00pm – 7:30pm: Dinner with Presentation

8:00pm – 9:30pm: Late Night Lounge

Saturday, September 20th

8:00am – 9:00am: Breakfast

9:15am – 12:15pm: Morning Classes

12:30pm – 1:30pm: Lunch with Presentation

2:00pm – 5:00pm: Afternoon Classes

5:00pm – 6:00pm: Boxed dinner collection

WEBS Shopping Night with exclusive deals &
free shipping!

8:30pm – 10:00pm: Late Night Lounge

Sunday, September 21st

8:30am – 9:30am: Mindful Meditation with
Mary Ann Gebhardt

9:30am: Brunch

10:00am – 11:00am: Keynote Speech with
Lily Chin

12:00pm: Check-out of Hotel UMass

Instructor	Friday am	Friday pm	Saturday am	Saturday pm
Lily Chin	Knocking Off A Garment	Join As You Go Knitting	Tips, Tricks and Hints	Phony Cables
Mary Annarella	Top Down Sweater Construction	Top-Down, Simultaneous Set-In Sleeve Sweaters	Double Knitting	Colorwork Without Stranding
Nina Machlin Dayton	Master the Magic of Mitered Squares	Bead Your Knitting	Design a Hat from Measurements	Fixing Mistakes
Shaina Bilow	Continental Knitting	Intarsia Basics: Painting with Yarn	Come together: ³ Ways to Join Stitches	Entrelac Unlocked
Ana Campos	Portuguese Knitting: From Basics to Colorwork	Finish Like a Pro: Steeks and Buttonbands	Toe Up Socks in a Day	Short Rows Three Ways: Yarn Over, Wrap and Turn, German
Bruce Weinstein	Manipulating Stitches for Gorgeous Fabrics	Knitting Faster with Combination Knitting	Reversible Cables Large & Small	Herringbone Two Ways





Lily Chin - Keynote Speaker

What hasn't Lily done? Named to the Crochet Hall of Fame in 2015 and recognized as a Master Knitter by Vogue Knitting in 1991, Lily has worked in the fashion industry since age 13. She's designed for top names like Ralph Lauren, Diane von Furstenberg, and Vera Wang, with her work worn by celebrities and supermodels. From 2005 to 2008, she had her own line of yarns and patterns.

Crowned the world's fastest crocheter in 2002, Lily has authored numerous books and appeared in hundreds of media outlets—from The Late Show with David Letterman to CNN. She was also a cast member of PBS's Knit and Crochet Now (Season 13).

Lily is most proud of her teaching accomplishments. She's taught globally since 1989, offering workshops, lectures, and seminars in hand and machine knitting and crochet. She regularly teaches at major U.S. shows and has led virtual classes monthly since 2020.

Classes

Knocking Off A Garment

Have a ready-to-wear garment that you love? Does this garment fit you like a glove? Would you like to interpret it as a handknit or hand-crochet? See how to copy this garment and create a pattern from the original. Learn how easy it is to translate it as a knit (or crochet) without even doing much math!



Join As You Go Knitting

Most knitters avoid seaming like the plague. When working garment pieces or different colored strips, sewing seams seems daunting. Learn how to join as you go for many situations, including edgings. Join a new piece to the left of an existing piece, to the right of an existing piece, or to the top or bottom of an existing piece.



Tips, Tricks and Hints

Learn all the little secrets to make knitting life easier and better. Find out how to cast on in 2-tail method without running out of the second tail. Join a new skein of yarn or a new color without losing that first stitch. See ways of attaching buttons as you work. Create invisible circular bind offs on a neck where the beginning and end are absolutely imperceptible. Weave in those little ends that are too short to put through a darning needle. Take away lots of small "fix-its" and improve those details.

Phony Cables

We love cables but we sometimes don't like the interruption of actually doing a cable. Learn several ways of achieving a cable look without having to actually re-arrange the stitches. Try out several easier alternatives, including a two-color faux cable and a trim. These are guaranteed to be unique and often much faster with similar results.





Mary Annarella

Mary Annarella (Lyrical Knits) started knitting as a college student when she really wanted a round-yoked, Icelandic pullover but couldn't afford one. She bought some yarn from a tiny shelf of craft supplies at a local Woolworth store (remember those?) and practiced casting on using chopsticks since she'd forgotten to purchase needles.

Mary's knitting life got a lot of upgrades since those knitting-with-chopsticks days: beautiful hand-dyed yarns are readily available; interchangeable needles rocked her world; and she's been publishing her own outstanding knitting patterns since 2010. She's a sweater girl who's passionate about helping knitters get a great fit and loves designing accessories that play with geometry and fun, easy-to-knit construction. She takes particular delight in seeing knitters learn from her work to create something that makes them happy.

Classes

Top-Down Sweater Construction:

This class gives you practice with various sweater types using top-down construction (drop shoulder, set-in sleeve, circular yoke, saddle shoulder, raglan, and compound raglan). We will explore fit considerations for each sweater type as well as how to modify to suit your personal taste and preference. We'll also give special attention to the placement of short rows to raise the back of the neck of circular yoke sweaters as well as a solution for how to deal with a pesky short row when returning to working in the round.



Top Down Simultaneous Set-In Sleeve Sweaters:

In this class, Mary introduces you to the top-down, seamless sweater construction where the set-in sleeve is worked at the same time as the upper bodice. That's right—no seaming! She'll cover how the construction works, how to modify it to fit your body, and the necessary skills needed for the construction, (i.e. the cabled cast-on, different increases, and a few short rows). We'll be knitting a swatch version of the sweater's sleeve cap in class, preparing you to cast on for your own sweater once the workshop is complete!



Both sides, Now: Adventures in Double Knitting:

Double knitting is a technique that lets you create 2 layers of reversible fabric at the same time. When working with two colors, you can create a pattern on one side that has the reverse coloring on the other side. And since the technique hides the WS of the fabric, it can be ideal for colorwork patterns with long stretches of a single color.

In this class, we'll work out the basics of casting on for double knitting, working both sides of the fabric, beginning with simple patterning (like stripes) and then practicing with colorwork patterns. The class culminates with working on a knitted coaster in one of two color patterns of your choice.



Colorwork Without Stranding

Up your colorwork game by adding slipped, tucked, and dipped stitches to your knitting toolbox. This 3 hr class explores using these techniques for adding colorwork to knitting without stranding. Different textures result, and there's no steeking if you want a flat piece. We'll knit a small sampler as we practice a variety of non-stranded patterns ranging from simple to more intermediate and complex, and showing how you can get a completely different look by changing which side you hold your yarn to when you're slipping a stitch.





Nina Machlin Dayton

Nina Machlin Dayton has been immersed in the world of knitting, designing, and teaching for over 45 years. Her journey began in the 1980s with her first professional role, hand-knitting for renowned couturier Joan Vass, and she hasn't looked back since. A Season 6 Knit Star, Nina also spearheads the team behind Ravelry's annual Indie Design Gift-A-Long, a beloved event for the knitting community. Originally from New York City, Nina now resides in the picturesque Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts. She shares an old, book-filled Victorian home with her family, her cats, and an impressive collection of yarn and vintage treasures related to knitting, crochet, dressmaking, and millinery.

Classes

Mastering the Magic of Mitered Squares

Mitered Squares can be used to create so many things and in so many ways. In this class we will learn the basics of creating Mitered Squares, learn to join them as you go, as we work on the included pot holder pattern. We'll delve into the many, many things that you can knit with them – from blankets to garments. You will leave with a formula to create Mitered Squares on your own, as well as as many ideas of how to use them as your imagination can come up with.



Bead Your Knitting

We will knit a beautiful, beaded swatch that will allow us to learn and practice many methods for adding beads to your knitting – a beaded cast-on with pre-strung beads, beaded yarn overs for our lace knitting, 2 methods of adding

beads to your knitting as you go, and a beaded bind-off.

Fixing Mistakes

Mistakes happen, even to the best of us. In this class we will learn how to diagnose and correct the most common ones – twisted stitches, missed or extra yarn overs, picking up and dropping down our stitches to fix mistakes in stockinette, garter, mixed knit and purl patterns, and even discuss how to fix a mis-crossed cable or simple lace from rows above.



Design a Hat From Measurements

Together we will go over all aspects of designing a basic hat from measurements using any yarn you choose. We'll examine the different brims, hat body patterns, and crown decreases, and you will leave the class with a hat designed (and possibly knit as well) as well as the skills and worksheets needed to make as many more as you wish.





Shaina Bilow

Shaina Bilow inspires joyful knitting through engaging workshops and thoughtful designs. In her workshops, you'll find a patient and encouraging instructor who loves seeing the "lightbulb moments" as students start understanding tricky techniques and learning new concepts that they can apply to their knitting projects.

For over 20 years, Shaina has had extensive experience in the knitting industry as a teacher, yarn shop employee, yarn shop owner, professional knitwear finisher, knitwear designer, small-batch yarn dyer, and more! Shaina has worked with thousands of knitters and brings an expert understanding of the craft to her workshops, helping students advance their skills while having a great time.

Classes

Intarsia Basics: Painting with Yarn

Add bold color motifs and designs to your knitting using the popular color knitting technique of Intarsia. Since it allows knitters to add color and shapes where they please, Intarsia can best be described as "painting with yarn". Learn to work with bobbins, read a chart, work duplicate stitch, and create bold blocks of color using Intarsia as you make a mini piece of modern art during this workshop.



Continental Knitting is Fun!

If you are an English or American knitter – someone who throws their yarn with their right hand to knit – but have been intrigued by Continental knitting and would love to learn or brush-up your skills, this class is for you! In

continental knitting, the yarn is held in your left hand and stitches are plucked through one another to knit. Some people feel that this method of knitting is quicker and less stressful on the shoulders, wrists, and neck than the English method.

Entrelac Unlocked

Entrelac is a knitting technique that gives the appearance of interwoven strips of knitting. Learn this interesting technique which includes decreasing, pick up stitches on the RS and WS, and knitting backwards. In this class, we will begin a beautiful scarf or cowl together.



Come together: 3 Ways to Join Stitches

What's the best way to join shoulder stitches? How about the toe of a sock? Have you ever wondered why a pattern calls for one method of joining pieces to another? Let's put some joins into practice during this workshop while we work a Mattress stitch Seam, graft stitches, and work a 3-Needle Bind Off. We'll discuss when to use each technique and when you can swap the techniques, too!





Ana Campos

Ana Campos was born in São Paulo, Brazil, and now makes her home in the Witch City (Salem, Massachusetts). She is a founding member of Vogue Knitting's Diversity Advisory Council and is committed to increasing equity and access in the fiber world. Ana brings more than 20 years of knitting experience to her yarn shop, Circle of Stitches, and to her workshops, which she teaches across the U.S.. As a teacher, her focus is on the technical aspects of knitting, and she strives to empower her students to create pieces they love.

Classes

Short Rows Three Ways: Yarn Over, Wrap and Turn, German

Find short rows confusing? Not sure what a short row even is? In this workshop, you'll learn when and how to use short rows, and three different methods for turning short rows: yarn over, wrap and turn, and German.



Finish like a Pro: Steeks and Buttonbands

Come learn how to steek your knits! It's not that scary, we promise. In this workshop, you will learn how to create a crochet reinforcement for your steek and how to cut your steek. You'll also learn how to pick up stitches for a button band, and how to always pick up the perfect button band - no more guessing how to space out your stitches! As a finishing touch, you'll also learn how to hand-stitch a ribbon to the inside of your steek.



Toe Up Socks in A Day

Let go of your sock knitting fears and conquer toe-up socks! In this class, we'll knit a mini sock to learn all the techniques you need for a full-sized sock! We will cover the magic cast on for toes, toe shaping, and how to turn a short row heel. Time permitting, we will also cover some more tips and tricks! You'll leave class with a basic sock pattern to knit a full-sized pair of socks with your new skills.



Portuguese Knitting: From Basics to Colorwork

Learn how to knit Portuguese style! Portuguese knitting is more efficient and easier on your joints, so it can help reduce strain and fatigue. In this style of knitting, the yarn is tensioned either around the neck or using a knitting pin. This unique method of tensioning the yarn allows both knit and purl stitches to be created with a simple flick of the thumb! In this workshop, you'll learn the basics of Portuguese Knitting, and then use your new skills to learn stranded colorwork. Portuguese Knitting makes it easier to control the tension of your floats, making for easy stranded knitting!





Bruce Weinstein

Bruce Weinstein learned to knit while he was an advertising creative director in New York. Having already published a number of cookbooks, he discussed the idea of a men's knitting book with his agent and the book *KNITS MEN WANT: The 10 Rules Every Woman Should Know Before Knitting For A Man*, was published. The success of that book led to *BOYFRIEND SWEATERS: 19 Designs For Him That You'll Want To Wear*. Bruce's passion with yarn is creating fabric. He loves to use woven and textural stitches as well as the slipped stitch and duplicate stitch technique, using multiple colors, to create gorgeous fabrics. In each of his workshops, Bruce will go over how to turn these beautiful colorwork fabrics into sweaters, cowls, blankets, and more. His patterns are best sellers on Ravelry as well as his own website www.bruceweinstein.net.

Classes

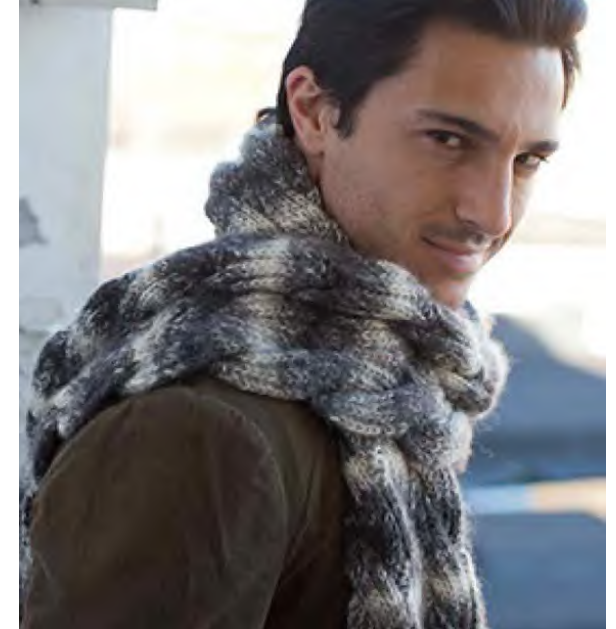
Knitting Faster With Combination Knitting

Have you ever wished you could knit faster? Have you ever gotten tired of wrapping your yarn around your needle for every stitch? Does the finger gymnastics of the standard purl stitch make your fingers cramp? Bruce will teach you tips and tricks to increase your speed no matter how you currently knit. But he'll also show you how he knits fast using the combination knitting method. It starts with continental knitting where the yarn is all in your left hand. But it goes on from there. You'll learn the combination purl. And you'll learn how to deal with stitches that face the wrong way and how to adapt instructions for knitting in the combination style.



Reversible Cables Large & Small

Cables are beautiful and they're fun, but their usage has always been limited to sweaters and other 1-sided projects because while they are gorgeous on the front side, they are usually pretty unappealing on the back. Until now. Bruce will show you the secret to making cables that are totally reversible for scarves and blankets that look amazing – and exactly the same on both sides of the fabric. In this workshop Bruce will show you how to create two beautiful, cabled fabrics; one thick and lush, the other more delicate and sophisticated. Both patterns provided are from his books *BOYFRIEND SWEATERS* and *KNITS MEN WANT*. Be prepared to amaze yourself and your friends with these reversible cabled projects.



Herringbone Two Ways

When it comes to woven stitches, herringbone stands out as one of the most popular and the most beautiful. The fabric we create looks like it just came off a loom. Bruce has two approaches to create this incredible fabric and this 3-hour workshop is long enough for him to show you both. One is thick, dense, in two colors, and has the famed bone motif on the front and stripes on the back. The second one is single colored and has more drape making a luxurious scarf or even a sweater. But keep in mind that creating a woven fabric on your knitting needles means working every single stitch more than once – entwining them in a woolen choreography that yields a complex fabric that is not easy to unravel to fix mistakes. Bruce will show you the best ways to avoid mistakes in the first place!



Manipulating Stitches for Gorgeous Fabrics

When we put yarn on our needles, we're not creating a sweater – we are creating fabric. When we sew these fabric pieces together we are creating a garment but until then, it's all about fabric. And the secret to creating unusual and gorgeous fabrics is to learn how to manipulate stitches and make them do what we want them to do. In this workshop Bruce will show you how to drop, slip, stretch and knit stitches through and around each other to create some truly impressive fabrics. Then you'll take it another step deeper. Playing with different needle sizes will show you just how much your fabric can change as you adjust the gauge. What can you do with these fabrics? Scarves, blankets, pillows. And yes, even sweaters. Bruce will show you how to adapt these beautiful fabrics into useful and wearable knitting garments and accessories.



Mary Ann Gebhardt

Mary Ann Gebhardt is a passionate Yoga Instructor, Meditation Teacher, and lifelong fiber artist. Deeply connected to the meditative nature of knitting, embroidery, and crochet, she blends creative expression with mindful movement to nurture both body and spirit. Mary Ann encourages her students to reflect on what brings them joy through craft and stillness.

Her teachings inspire a slower pace, greater creativity, and a deeper connection to self.

In her new book, *Knitting Meditation – 40 Day Journal*, Mary Ann guides readers on a transformative journey of self-expression through writing, reflection, and fiber arts. Whether knitting, crocheting, or embroidering, her joyful approach fosters awareness and positive change.

Meet Mary Ann at our exclusive WEBS Shopping Night book signing, and join her for a special mindful session on Sunday morning before brunch.

