





# *WEBS Winter Knitting Retreat*

January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

**Skill level:** All levels welcome!

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Our virtual Winter Knitting Retreat is a cozy weekend of creativity, community, and all things knitting! Join us for expert-led classes, mindful yoga and meditation sessions, inspiring talks from industry-leading instructors, vendor presentations and more - all from the comfort of home.

## *Packages*



### **Merino Package - \$400**

4 class hours; access to lounge and all presentations and activities; discount / free shipping code and a 'Stitch & Stash' tote bag



### **Alpaca Package - \$475**

6 class hours; access to lounge and all presentations and activities; discount / free shipping code and a 'Stitch & Stash' tote bag



### **Cashmere Package - \$550**

8 class hours; access to lounge and all presentations and activities; discount / free shipping code and a 'Stitch & Stash' tote bag

## Virtual Retreat Schedule

### Thursday, January 23rd

6:00pm: Retreat Welcome!

6:30pm – 8:00pm: Charity Knit Night Event for WUA!

### Friday, January 24th

9:00am–9:15am: Morning Check-In

9:30am–10:30am: Sponsor Roundtable

11:00am–1:00pm: Early Afternoon Classes

1:30pm–2:30pm: Mindful Knitting for Makers

3:00pm–5:00pm: Late Afternoon Classes

5:30pm–6:30pm: Roundtable with Pru Raymond

7:30pm–9:00pm: Evening Sponsor presentation

### Saturday, January 25th

9:00am–9:15am: Morning Check-In

9:30am–10:30am: Sponsor Presentation

11:00am–1:00pm: Early Afternoon classes

1:30pm–2:30pm: Mindful Knitting for Makers

3:00pm–5:00pm: Late Afternoon Classes

5:30pm–6:30pm: Virtual Drop-In with Nina Machlin Dayton

7:30pm–9:00pm: Evening Sponsor Presentation

### Sunday, January 26th

10:00am–10:30am: Final Check-In & Giveaways!

11:00am–12:00pm: Keynote Speech by Kim McBrien Evans

Instructor	Friday am	Friday pm	Saturday am	Saturday pm
<b>Keith Leonard</b>	Tubular Cast Ons	No Fear Brioche	Short row fun!	WOW! Now I'm a Continental Knitter (with Combination Tricks!)
<b>Nina Machlin Dayton</b>	Swatching & Gauge	Flawless Finishing	Bead Your Knitting	Duplicate Stitch
<b>Pru Raymond / Beth Gorishek</b>	Makers Mindset - An Adaptive Thinking Workshop - Beth Gorishek	Introduction to Fair Isle - Pru Raymond	Beyond the Yarn: Transforming Knits into Wall Art with Adaptive Thinking - Beth Gorishek	Simple Socks- Pru Raymond
<b>Amy Snell</b>	Cooler Cast-Ons, Better Bind-Offs	Fascinating Finishes: Embroidering Your Knits	Delve into design cowls	Knitwear Repair: Resurrecting Your Damaged Knits
<b>Shaina Bilow</b>	Entrelac Unlocked	Confident Cables	How to Design Knitted Hats	Mosaic Mania! Stunning Colorwork Made Easy
<b>Kim McBrien Evans</b>	Inspiration to Admiration: Creating a Story in Yarn	Breaking the Rules: Building Unique Shawl Shapes	Secrets From the Skein: What Your Yarn Forgot To Tell You	Sweaters That Fit!





## 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.

Discover Nina's designs on Ravelry at [www.ravelry.com/designers/ninamachlin-dayton](http://www.ravelry.com/designers/ninamachlin-dayton), or follow her creative adventures on Instagram: [@ninamachlindayton](https://www.instagram.com/ninamachlindayton).

## Class Descriptions



### Flawless Finishing

Many a beautifully knit sweater or accessory falls short in the finishing process. We'll examine best practices for the steps that make our projects more polished looking - Seaming (vertical to vertical, horizontal to horizontal, and vertical to horizontal for the dreaded set-in sleeve!), blocking, and weaving in ends. Take your projects to the next level by learning the techniques and tricks that make them look impeccable!

### Swatching & Gauge

A gauge swatch will tell you everything you need to know about the final outcome of the hours you'll spend with some beautiful yarn and your favorite needles. In this class, students will dissect the elements of a properly knit gauge swatch including stitch count, row count, fabric characteristics, swatching for even patterned

fabrics and uneven patterned ones like lace, swatching for in-the-round patterns, and the best way(s) to block your swatches for best results. Your knitting wants you to take this class!

### Bead Your Knitting

Add some beautiful sparkle to your knitting! Together we will knit a beautiful beaded swatch that will allow us to knit and practise several different methods of adding beads to your knitting - a beaded cast on with prestrung beads, 2 methods to add beads to your knitting as you go, and a beaded bind off.

### Duplicate Stitch

Duplicate Stitch is a way to create beautiful colorwork in our knitting after the piece is finished. We will learn to do this, as well as diving into the other uses it has - for reinforcing your knit fabric, for repairing small holes or worn patches invisibly, and for surprising pathways to understanding and mastering both best practices for sewing shoulder seams on sweaters, and how to graft pieces together!





## Shaina Bilow

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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.

Discover more at [shainabilow.com/](http://shainabilow.com/).

## Class Descriptions

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### Entrelac Unlocked

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



### Confident Cable Knitting

It's time to conquer cables and finally take the fear out of cable knitting! Learn basic cabling skills as well as tricks to simplify cable pattern reading during this hands-on workshop. We will learn a whole lot of cables together – everything from simple two-stitch cables to the standard twists to reversible cables that are ideal for scarves, cowls, and blankets.

### How to Design Knitted Hats

Have you always wanted to learn how to design hats for yourself and your loved ones? Then this is the class for you! Come to class prepared with swatches of knitted fabrics and learn how to measure your gauge, measure a head, and combine the numbers to create custom hat designs using templates Shaina provides. This is a great class for first-time pattern writers!



### Mosaic Mania! Stunning Colorwork Made Easy

Mosaic Knitting is a fascinating form of colorwork, as only one color is used per row or round. Looking much more complex than it is, mosaic knitting is a great way to introduce colorwork to your repertoire. During the workshop, we will explore how many mosaic patterns are written and practice knitting these beautiful patterns.



## *Pru Raymond*

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Pru Raymond has sold out knitting workshops and stackable retreats in yarn stores and community centres Australia-wide, and in yarn stores on the east and west coast of USA.

Pru combines her expertise as a professional educator and her lifelong passion for knitting to develop original, engaging knitting workshops. As a qualified teacher with almost 20 years' experience, Pru's workshops are supportive, engaging and inclusive of all learners. Pru has an in-depth knowledge of diverse styles and techniques and demonstrates skills in English, Combination and Continental Styles.

Pru also designs and publishes knitting patterns, freelances for knitting magazines and has produced a range of knitting themed journals which are available on Amazon globally, and stocked in select yarn stores.

Learn more at [dearpru.com](http://dearpru.com).

## *Class Descriptions*

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### **Simple Socks**

Get started knitting socks with Simple Socks. This workshop is designed by Pru Raymond for knitters who have mastered the basics (casting on, knit and purl stitches) and want to learn to knit socks for themselves and others. Over the course of the two hours, participants will knit a mini sock, in order to develop fundamental skills and confidence to knit the full size DK and/or 4ply pattern included in the instruction booklet.



### **Intro to Fair Isle**

Begin your love affair with Stranded Colorwork Knitting. This workshop is designed by Pru Raymond as an introduction to this popular colorwork technique also known as Fair Isle. Learn to read charts, select colours and tension yarns in one and two hands. Develop the confidence to cast on your first- or next- Fair Isle project.



*Kim McBrien Evans*

Curiosity, exploration and an ever expanding plan for world domination are central to the work of knitwear designer and indie hand dyer, Kim McBrien Evans. Known for designs that turn abstract ideas into colour-filled hand knit reality while simultaneously fitting and honouring every body, Kim aims to revolutionize sweater fit, sizing, and how diverse bodies are represented in the yarn world through research, education, and collaborations with makers worldwide. Her representative body measurement chart for designers - inclusive of 28 - 76" chest sizes - earned her a Top 5 Trailblazer award from Interweave in 2023. Kim believes all bodies are good bodies and deserve clothing that fits. She also believes that clothing should be dynamic and exciting to knit and to wear. You can learn more about Kim's work on her website [kimmcbrienevans.ca/](http://kimmcbrienevans.ca/).

## *Class Descriptions*

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### **Inspiration to Admiration: Creating a Story in Yarn**

How do you take an idea from inspiration to finished object? Over your knitting lifetime, you've developed techniques, colours and stitch patterns you love to work with. This class builds on what we already know, showing how to translate the skills you have now to your knitting projects to make them deeply personal.

### **Breaking the Rules: Building Unique Shawl Shapes**

Contemporary shawls build on tradition, yet defy it openly. Shawls are for all genders and all sizes and are limited only by your imagination. Take what you know about traditional shapes and learn to bend, twist and break those shawl recipes. Learn how to manipulate shape for depth, for length and for colour and stitch play to start creating unique shawls just for you.



### **Secrets From The Skein: What Your Yarn Forgot To Tell You**

Hand dyed yarns seduce us with their beauty, but are often challenging to work with. But once the honeymoon is over and you're knitting your project, all its secrets rise to the surface. What is your hand dyed yarn REALLY telling you, and how can you best use it in your next project? We'll explore:

- What kinds of projects are best suited for different dyeing styles
- Identify different dyeing styles and how to "read" your yarn
- The myth of the "dye lot"
- How to easily and effectively alternate skeins for larger projects

### **Sweaters That Fit!**

Are you a would-be Sweater Knitter? Do you have fears of putting time and effort into sweaters that don't fit? In this class we'll look at ways to improve your sweater knitting before you start your pattern. Learn how to create perfect sweater fabric and how to take the most important measurements for sweater fit, and apply that information to how to choose the best size for you, and how to build a "hybrid size" when your measurements span more than one size. Finally we'll look at what you need to know about sweater knitting, ease and design details to knit better sweaters for your body and personal style.



## Amy Snell

Amy Snell is a knitting instructor and designer with an eye for the unusual or unusually captivating. She enjoys teaching techniques and stitch patterns that bring color, contrast, geometry, and texture into knitting in new or interesting ways. Whether teaching locally in the San Francisco Bay area, virtually, or in-person for knitting guilds and events nationwide, Amy loves to help other knitters explore new techniques and expand the way they think about their knitting. Her goal is to make complex concepts approachable for all knitters, while sharing tips that improve your process whether you've been knitting for several weeks or several decades. Amy's work has appeared in numerous books and periodicals including *Cast On*, *Interweave Knits*, *Knotions*, *I Love Knitting* and numerous pattern collections. She frequently shares tips and tricks on her website, [www.DeviousKnitter.com](http://www.DeviousKnitter.com), and can be found as [@DeviousKnitter](https://www.instagram.com/DeviousKnitter) on social media.

## Class Descriptions

### Cooler Cast-Ons, Better Bind-Offs

Different projects benefit from different techniques in casting on and binding off: sometimes you need a firm bind-off, and sometimes a stretchy one. Sometimes you want to cast on provisionally, or using two colors, or in ribbing. In this class we'll explore new ways to cast on and bind off and share tips to improve your technique on your old favorites.

### Fascinating Finishes: Embroidering Your Knits

What's better than a finished object? A fascinatingly-finished object! Learn to take your knits to the next level with these arresting embroidery finishes. No harder than weaving in ends, but so much more satisfying — in this class you'll learn and practice multiple embroidery finishes to elevate your hand-knits or enliven store-bought knits. We'll explore how simple geometric stitches can elevate existing stitchwork and highlight knitted motifs. Simple to execute but stunning to see,



you'll come away from this class with boundless ideas for really finishing off your finished knits by adding amazing touches to borders, hems, cuffs, or even entire pieces.

### Delve Into Design: Creative Cowls

Learn the basics of knitting pattern design — how to turn your idea into a finished object — by bringing your own custom cowl to life. We'll explore the importance of gauge, pattern repeats, and sizing while planning out your own special project. You'll consider edgings, transitions, and more, then work through how to put it all together.

### Knitwear Repair: Resurrecting Your Damaged Knits

No matter how much care we take with our knitted items, sometimes they develop holes, pulls, snags, or even moth damage. Never fear! With just a bit of effort, you can repair the damage and ready your knits for many more years of use. In this class you'll learn several different methods for repairing damage, and when to use each.







## Keith Leonard

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Keith Leonard began his knitting journey when he joined a lunch time knitting program in elementary school. Once the knitting bug bit, the itch never went away. After graduating from college, he started a knitwear finishing business called Knits All Done, completing hundreds of finishing projects for clients all over the United States. His finishing expertise organically transitioned into teaching knitting classes, and he has taught his skills to thousands of knitters throughout the country. In 2019 Keith started his own yarn line, [yarnsnobyarns.com](http://yarnsnobyarns.com), and he currently spends his days producing astonishingly vibrant skeins to put in the hands of knitters.

## Class Descriptions

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### Tubular Cast Ons

The Tubular Cast On is Keith's FAVORITE method for beginning a 1x1 and 2x2 rib. This is the same technique that is used on high-end machine-made knitwear. It's almost as if the stitches appear out of thin air with no beginning or ending in sight! Fine details like these give your knitting a truly professional look, especially on cowls, hats, socks, sleeve cuffs, sweater hems, and necklines. There are multiple ways to do this cast on; Keith has tested them all and is here to show you the BEST while breaking down the steps to make the techniques easy and manageable. We will be using two different methods for casting on 1x1 and 2x2 ribbing. In addition, Keith will give you tips to make your Tubular Cast On pristine and keep your edges crisp. After taking this workshop, you'll love working the Tubular Cast On so much that you'll use it anywhere you can!

### No Fear Brioche

Brioche stitch is all the rage! Gazing upon a brioche pattern may be intimidating, but this class will break down its components as you begin to master this unique and oddly constructed stitch pattern. Brioche stitch makes for a lofty and squishy fabric that is perfect for sweaters, scarves hats and blankets. Come join the fun and learn some new knitting abbreviations such as "Bark" and "Burp"!

### WOW! Now I'm a Continental Knitter (with Combination Tricks!)

Do you "throw" or knit English Style (with the yarn in your right hand?) Have you gazed upon Continental Knitters and wished you had the slick speed with which they knit? If so, THIS is the class for you. As an English Style Knitter, it was important for Keith to learn Continental Knitting in order to demonstrate different techniques to different knitters. However, he quickly learned the AMAZING advantages of knowing and using both knitting styles. So join Keith as he teaches you to speed up your knitting by "picking" or knitting Continental Style! PLUS, he is also going to show you some Combination Tips that will help you tweak your knitting and make your knitting look more professional.

### Short Row Fun

One of Keith's favorite aspects of knitting is that there are many ways to get to the same place. For example, there are many different methods for casting on, increasing, decreasing, binding off, etc. However, when it comes to short rows, German Short Rows have proven over and over to be the EASIEST while looking the BEST! Many patterns, however, are still written using traditional wrap and turns. In this class we will review wrap and turns in order to better understand how and why German short rows are preferred. We will then master the German Short Row technique and learn how to translate patterns (Including The Lizard Ridge Afghan) so you can use German Short Rows in ANY pattern.



## Beth Gorishek

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Beth Gorishek, known as The Adaptive Knitter, is a passionate advocate for inclusivity in crafting, dedicated to empowering crafters of all abilities. Born with a congenital limb difference, she understands firsthand the challenges faced by those with disabilities and has made it her mission to break down barriers in the knitting world. Beth believes that “adaptation is its own form of creativity,” showing that knitting can be adapted to fit each individual’s needs, turning limitations into opportunities for creative expression. Through her teaching and personal experience, she inspires others to embrace adaptation as a tool for both creativity and self-expression. Find out more about Beth’s work at [www.adaptiveknitter.com](http://www.adaptiveknitter.com) or by following her on Instagram [@adaptiveknitter](https://www.instagram.com/adaptiveknitter)

## Class Descriptions

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### **Makers Mindset – an Adaptive Thinking Workshop**

Unlock the world of knitting in a whole new way. Join Beth for a unique hands-on experience where you’ll gain insights into how to quickly adjust your thinking and problem-solving approach in response to our changing bodies and abilities over time.

You’ll be guided to explore adaptive knitting techniques, adjusting traditional methods to suit your specific needs and abilities. You’ll learn to think about making in a way that accommodates your personal circumstances, making crafting accessible to all. You will also learn more about Beth’s story, shedding light on how knitting became a form of self-expression, therapy, and advocacy.

Bonus: A free copy of Beth’s “Born This Way” shawl pattern and a copy of her “Pillars of Inclusion” belief statements that the pattern is based on.

### **Beyond the Yarn: Transforming Knits into Wall Art with Adaptive Thinking**

Explore new ways to bring beauty and meaning into your space with this unique workshop where creativity meets adaptability.

In this class, you will be guided through the process of converting pre-knitted pieces into art for your walls. Whether you’re a beginner, a seasoned knitter, or someone who’s taken a break from knitting due to physical changes, Beth’s approach is all about seeing creative

potential in what you already have. We’ll explore adaptive techniques that allow everyone to get creative, hands-on, and expressive, honoring the materials and stories behind each special handmade piece. Beth will also share her own journey as a disabled knitter and adaptive maker, highlighting how creativity and adaptability have kept her connected to the craft in new and meaningful ways.

This class is a celebration of adaptive thinking and the power of making. Whether your piece is a memory-filled shawl, a special swatch, or even a gifted (but unflattering) sweater, join us and turn it into a personal work of art that brings new warmth into your home.





## *Mindful Knitting for Makers with Mary Ann Gebhardt*

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Mary Ann Gebhardt, a Chopra Certified Instructor and E-500 member of the Yoga Alliance, has studied yoga and meditation for over 40 years. She leads workshops in mindful practices, including knitting and sound meditations with Tibetan singing bowls. Her respect for meditation deepened through her work as a Medical Technologist in Hematology and Open Heart Surgery, where she witnessed the mind-body connection in healing. Knitting since age seven, Mary Ann finds pure peace in the quiet rhythm of her craft. Follow her on Instagram: [@Mary Ann Gebhardt](#).

Experience the healing power of knitting and crocheting with Mary Ann. In these sessions, we'll explore gentle hand and shoulder movements to release tension, helping you relax and enjoy the meditative rhythm of your craft, accompanied by the soothing sounds of Tibetan singing bowls.



## *Keynote speaker: Kim McBrien Evans*

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## *Our Charity Partner*

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**Warm Up America! (WUA)** is a nonprofit organization, powered by volunteers who knit and crochet handmade afghans, clothing, and accessories for those in need. Since 1991, volunteers across the U.S. have come together to make and donate warm items to people in need. With a commitment to supporting neighbors and communities, WUA! provides comfort and warmth through each handcrafted piece. Learn more at [warmupamerica.org](http://warmupamerica.org).