



YarnSmarts

Yarn Lovers Late Fall Retreat

November 13-16, 2025

Welcome!! We hope you'll be excited to join us for our first retreat weekend jam-packed with classes and events from the comfort of your own home or craft space.

What's Included:

- *Two full days of virtual classes*
- *Special events and Q&A sessions*
- *Fun swag bag to inspire your creativity*
- *Special prizes to win throughout the weekend*
- *Classes with industry-leading instructors*

Kate Atherley

Fiona Ellis

Tanis Gray

Barry Klein

Kim McBrien Evans

Xandy Peters

Amy Snell

Natalie Warner



Greetings and Welcome to the first YarnSmarts Yarn Lovers Late Fall Retreat!!

Now that Sweater Weather is here to stay for the next several months and we're spending more time tucked in with our knitting and crochet, I'm thrilled to offer this wonderful weekend of inspiration, creativity and community as we take a little break before the holidays are upon us. There's a little something for everyone in this jam-packed weekend!

Whether you're looking for a new project, to learn a new technique, or brush up your skills, our fabulous teachers and speakers are ready to instruct and inspire you - all from the comfort of your own favorite crafting space! From shawls and scarves, cables, colorwork, lace and textures to playing with color, embroidery, and even scrapbooking, you're sure to find classes that will intrigue you and energize your crafting. You'll have time to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones.

I have thoroughly enjoyed putting this special retreat weekend together just for you and I truly hope you'll enjoy all it has to offer. Remy and I can't wait to spend this exciting weekend with you in the Zoom where it happens!

*Yours in yarn,
Beth*



Meet Your Teachers

Kate Atherley



KATE ATHERLEY 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. Her next book, *Math for Knitters*, will be published in the fall of 2025. 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.

www.kateatherley.com

Fiona Ellis



Fiona Ellis graduated from DeMontfort University (England) with a degree in fashion design, where she specialized in hand-knitwear design. Since

graduating in 1993 she has been consistently designing professionally in a number of different areas. Her original designs have been sold to major fashion houses in New York, London & Paris for mass-market production and have been widely published through premier knitting magazines and in yarn pattern booklets for many yarn companies.

In 2015 she was featured as the "Designer in Residence" throughout the year for Webs Yarns. She is the author of *Inspired Cable Knits*, *Knitspiration Journal* and *Inspired Fair Isle Knits*. You can find out what she is currently doing at www.fionaellisonline.com. You can also see all of her extensive design portfolio on Ravelry at: <http://www.ravelry.com/designers/fionaellis>

Tanis Gray



Tanis Gray Chang is a graduate of RISD, and lives in Northern VA with her Mechanical Engineer husband and two children. She has been in the creative field for many years, including roles at Martha Stewart, HBO, Focus Features, Hungryman Productions, and as the Yarn Editor at Vogue Knitting/ Sixth & Spring and co-editor

of Knit.1. She has worked on projects with Warner Brothers, Lucasfilm, Tim Burton, and Disney.

With over 700 published knitting designs in her portfolio, her work has been featured in many major publications and books worldwide.

Barry Klein



Barry Klein is owner and designer of yarns and patterns for Trendsetter Yarns. Barry grew up in the knitting industry by working in his mothers' knitting store. Barry learned how to custom design patterns and create knitwear for customers and the movie industry. Barry and his Mom started

Trendsetter with the idea of bringing the most exciting textured, fashion and luxury yarns to the

knitting customer. Over the past few years Cardiff Cashmere (Luxury Cashmere yarns from Italy), Lana Grossa (Largest and most successful yarn company in Europe) and now GGH have all been added in creating the new Trendsetter Yarn Group. Along with being a published author of 5

knitting books, T.V. knitting personality, knitting spokesperson/teacher at Stitches Events, Vogue Live, in store Trunk Shows and more. Barry has

been a voted member of "Top 10 Men who Knit Throughout History." Barry continues to share his knitting motto "Have fun, enjoy creating, personalize it and when possible let the yarn do the work."

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 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 make and to wear. In service of this, Kim sketches each design on a wide range of body shapes and sizes

to ensure her styles will respect your body as it is right now.

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.

Amy Snell



Amy Snell is a knitting instructor and designer and who teaches across the U.S. and online. She's known for her clever designs, deep technical understanding, and teaching style that empow-

ers knitters to be curious, confident, and capable. Her brand, "The Devious Knitter," refers to the kind of delightful trickery that knitting often involves—where a simple technique can yield a surprisingly complex or elegant result.

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, and can be found as @DeviousKnitter on social media.

Natalie Warner



Natalie Warner of Natalie in Stitches is a fourth-generation dressmaker and university-trained knitwear designer dedicated to empowering makers. She understands the frustration of ill-fitting

garments and champions a personalized approach to apparel patterns. Natalie believes clothes should serve you, not the other

way around. Through her courses and patterns, she guides knitters and sewists to create garments that truly fit and express their unique

style, fostering confidence and joy in the making process.



Classes

Kate's Class:

Math for Knitters – Level 1: Solving Knitters' Number Puzzles

Everything you need to know to figure out all those tricky numbers puzzles you encounter in your knitting. We'll focus on how math fits into pattern reading – all the aspects of counting and working and keeping track of instructions. We'll cover things like "Decrease every 8 rows 10 times", and "Increase 12 sts evenly distributed across the row". We'll talk about calculating yardage in partial balls of yarn, and how to ensure you'll have enough to complete your project. We'll also have a discussion of gauge and what it really means – and how to deal with it if you can't match. Suitable for newer knitters, and those who wish to get more comfortable reading patterns - it's all about conquering your fear of the numbers and making you a more powerful knitter! skill level: beginners, suitable for knitters who are confident with the mechanics of knitting, and are starting to work from patterns.

Fiona's Classes:

Inspired Cables

Fiona will begin by reviewing cable techniques, including tips for understanding the terminology and reading charts, which can help even advanced knitters. You will then try your hand at designing your own cable combinations, beginning from the sample, worked for homework. We will discuss which stitches work well together, and how to chart your own pattern selection. Novice cable knitters will work through a simple pattern.

Focus on Embroidery

Here is a way to look at making a simple knit garment very special and totally unique. Fiona will demonstrate several methods of embellishing your projects, some technical, some whimsical. During the class participants will work on their own individual samples exploring the endless possibilities this approach has to offer. You'll be inspired to try these techniques to add fun, whimsical elements, tone on tone texture or highlights to patterning in a more sophisticated way. And the applications extend beyond

knitted garments as you consider adding character to knitted toys and gnomes!

Design Your Own Cables

There are several ways of creating your own cables and using patterns that already exist can be a great springboard. With so many lovely cables found in stitch dictionaries we can create many combinations of them set horizontally across the width of the fabric and be very happy with the result. But Fiona finds it more interesting to come up with vertically arranged combos. In the class she will show you how to do this so that you can create something unique and exciting for your next cable project.

Scrapbooking for Knitters

Scrap booking is lots of fun and can also be functional. You can use it for recording your knitting projects or for organizing your thoughts and ideas for future sweaters. Fiona will share her love of design sketchbooks and mood /story boards and encourage you to take pleasure in the cross pollination that occurs when you marry two (or more) crafts.

Tanis' Classes:

Stranded Colorwork 101

Freaked over Fair Isle? Curious about stranded colorwork techniques? Intimidated by multiple strands of yarn in multiple colors? Not sure how gauge works or how to trap those floats? This is the workshop for you! We'll cover basic Fair Isle knitting techniques for English, continental, and Combination knitters, tackle common issues, proper technique, how to trap floats, Fair Isle history, and set good Fair Isle knitting habits. We'll put everything we learned into practice while knitting up either the Torchy Hat or the Torchy Cowl (knitter's choice!). No previous colorwork experience necessary.

Design Stranded Colorwork Cowl

Ready to move beyond basic stranded colorwork? Interested in trying your hand at designing? Let your imagination and creativity take over in this Design Your Own Stranded Colorwork Cowl workshop! Working with simple graph paper, we'll start your very own design from scratch, beginning with inspiration, sketching, moving onwards to design, figuring out how to manipulate the math, and finally start knitting your own work of art! Worried that you're not an artist? All you need is an

idea, a love of knitting, and the desire to try something new.

Roosimine Estonian Inlay

Learn the art of Estonian Inlay, or Roosimine in this hat workshop! Originating from the western Estonian island Muhu, this stranding technique has been used for centuries to embellish knitting. Sharing similar characteristics of stranded colorwork, intarsia, and embroidery, this beautiful technique adds texture and color to your knits. You'll have the option to make a 2-colored hat, or a 3-colored hat with 2-colored Vickle Braids. We will also cover twisted ribbing, blocking, and finishing techniques, and knit A Short Reprise Hat.

Intro to Double Knitting

Join colorwork master Tanis Gray for a Double Knitting workshop! A truly magical technique, Double Knitting creates a double-thick, double-sided fabric with no visible wrong side and inverted colors simultaneously! A cousin to stranded colorwork and intarsia, Double Knitting requires no stranding, no float trapping, no bobbins, and allows for larger motifs to be knit with ease without worrying about puckering. If you can knit and purl, you can Double Knit! We'll cover basic Double Knitting techniques, chart reading, fixing simple mistakes, and binding off a swatch. By the end of our time together, you'll be Double Knitting like a champion! Ability to knit and purl in the round. Previous colorwork experience not necessary, but helpful.

Barry's Class:

Tunisian Crochet

Let's start with the basics and move on. In this class we will learn the classic Tunisian Stitch, from the initial chain to picking up stitches and then the return. We won't spend a lot of time with this as we assume you have an understanding of basic crochet. We will continue with this idea through working multiple yarns, changing shapes, working Zig Zag, Miters and creating patterns from what you create with your swatches. One simple technique and we'll turn it in every direction possible.

Kim's Classes:

Technicolour Shawls

Technicolour Shawls takes an in-depth look at colour play in shawls. Basic colour theory gives us rules for working with colour and helps us choose them. We'll learn how to develop our instincts, when to trust our own colour sense and learn tools to help confirm what effects the colours we've chosen will have. Learn multiple techniques yarn management for multicoloured shawls: How to determine how much of each colour you will need for your gauge as well as how to manage switching colours and weaving in ends as you go. And finally, strategies for building a collection of "leftovers" that helps your shawl knitting.

I Hate Seaming: a Seaming Class for the Rest of Us

Do you hate seaming? Me too. Or do I? Garments with seams have more structure, more stability, last longer and withstand the wear and tear of everyday life. But seaming often feels like that onerous task that we loathe to do and avoid at all costs. Not anymore! Let me show you how to set yourself for seaming success. You'll learn:

- how to knit your garment to prepare for easy seaming
- how to build a seaming kit that works for you
- how to prepare your garment for seaming in ways that make it easy for you to pick it up and seam without frustration
- how to seam shoulders, along curves and

Shapely Sweaters: Short Rows & Sweater Fit

Hemlines that ride up. Shoulders that feel too tight. Necklines that choke us. All of these fit issues, and more can be resolved by adding short rows to your sweaters! Come explore how to shape your sweaters with short rows to create sweaters with comfortable shoulders, necklines, and hems that lay evenly all around your body.

Skills required: You must understand how short rows are worked.

Knowledge of German Short Rows is preferred. Instructions for how to create short rows will not be covered in this class.

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?

Xandy's Classes:

Bear Claws Wrap

The Bear Claws Wrap is an engaging striped colorwork project featuring a large scale flame stitch motif. The pattern is relatively simple, using only a few rows of shaping in combination with color to create a distinct claw motif. We will start class with an introduction to the stacked increase and decrease technique. Then we'll cast on a swatch of the Bear Claw motif work a portion of the pattern while learning to read stacked stitch patterns. Students will learn ways to check their own work and fix any problems that arise at home while testing out their new yarn and color choice in the pattern.

Requirements: This class is best suited for intermediate level knitters or adventurous beginners who have experience reading patterns and working basic increases and decreases.

Colorwork Games (open to crocheters)

If you love playing with geometry and want to combine your fiber arts with some fun math puzzles and games, this class is made for you! The class begins with an introduction to tiled patterns. We'll look at Truchet tiles and learn how to use rotational symmetry to turn a simple group of tiles into varied designs. Students will have the chance to cut out, fill in, and play with their own tile sets. Once we've made some fun patterns with simple tiles, we'll move on to edge matched tiling. These tile sets are used to create random patterns that look seamless (think of randomly generated maps in video games). These tile sets are surprisingly easy to create, and we will go over various strategies for creating edge matched tiles. Students will have time in class to create their own colorwork tile sets on paper and explore the possibilities. At the end of class, students can share their colorwork designs.

Requirements: Students should be familiar with 2 color stranded colorwork, or crochet colorwork.

Make a Mini Glenbrook Pull-through Scarf

The Glenbrook Scarf is designed for less knitting and more warmth. It is half the length of a traditional winter scarf, but the pull-through channel allows you to easily and securely tie this scarf around your neck. When you aren't wearing it, the scarf rolls up and can be secured with the loop for tidy storage. In class, we will learn multiple useful techniques that are used to create the scarf project. Stitches are cast on using Judy's Magic Cast On - an invisible cast on method, useful in stockinette stitch projects. Students will work a few rows, then learn to join the ends of the fabric into a tube or hem. The remainder of the scarf is worked in ribbing with yarns held double. Towards the end of class, we will finish off the scarf by learning to work a tubular bind off.

Requirements: This class is best suited for intermediate level knitters who have experience reading patterns and are ready to learn advanced techniques.

***Amy's Classes:* Combination Knitting**

Some of us suffer from "Rowing out," where our purled rows are at a different gauge than our knit rows. Others struggle with loose knit stitches in ribbing. Combination knitting solves these issues and often makes purling easier. This class will teach combination knitting for both English and Continental-style knitters.

Fixing a World of Woes with Duplicate Stitch

In this class, we'll learn (or revisit) how to work the handy and versatile duplicate stitch, then practice some of its many useful applications. You'll learn how duplicate stitch can be used to fix mistakes in color, texture, and even missed cables.

Natalie's Classes:

Introduction to Colour Mixing

Unlock your creative potential by learning to mix and match colours with confidence. This introductory class, suitable for all skill levels, will teach you the fundamentals of colour mixing. Using a combination of primary and complementary colours, we'll demystify the process of creating a vast range of shades and tones. You'll discover how to create a palette that

enhances your design projects, whether they're knitwear or other crafts. This class is more than just learning a technique; it's about giving you the confidence to explore colour and find your unique creative voice.

Introduction to Dart Manipulation

Master the essential skill of dart manipulation in this hands-on class. Perfect for anyone interested in garment construction and fit, this class is suitable for all ability levels. You will learn to pivot and transfer darts to create a wide variety of new silhouettes and designs. We'll provide you with a digital half-scale bodice block to work with, allowing you to practice and continue your learning independently. This is a chance to move beyond basic patterns and understand the fundamentals of shaping garments, giving you the power to put your own creative spin on any design. Half-scale bodice blocks will be supplied digitally for learners to practice and continue learning independently of the class or lecture.

Tessellations | Lace

Discover the world of surface pattern design for knitwear. This class is for knitters of all skill levels, from beginners to more advanced designers. We'll explore how to transform simple shapes into beautiful and complex tessellations. Learn to design repeating patterns using lace motifs. You'll be guided through the process of developing your own ideas and creating a bank of unique designs. Give yourself credit for being a designer, not just a knitter—it's time to expand your creative horizons and put your own stamp on your work!

Tessellations | Textures

Discover the world of surface pattern design for knitwear. This class is for knitters of all skill levels, from beginners to more advanced designers. We'll explore how to transform simple shapes into beautiful and complex tessellations. Learn to design repeating patterns using texture motifs. You'll be guided through the process of developing your own ideas and creating a bank of unique designs. Give yourself credit for being a designer, not just a knitter—it's time to expand your creative horizons and put your own stamp on your work!

Class Schedule

Friday, 11:00am-1:00pm

Technicolor Shawls
Combination Knitting
Stranded Colorwork
Inspired Cables
Bear Claws Workshop (Part 1)
Intro to Color Mixing

Kim McBrien Evans
Amy Snell
Tanis Gray
Fiona Ellis
Xandy Peters
Nataile Warner

Friday, 3:00pm-5:00pm

I Hate Seaming
Math for Knitters: Level I
Design Stranded Colorwork Cowl
Focus on Embroidery
Bear Claws Workshop (Part 2)
Intro to Dart Manipulation

Kim McBrien Evans
Kate Atherley
Tanis Gray
Fiona Ellis
Xandy Peters
Nataile Warner

Saturday, 11:00am-1:00pm

Shapely Sweaters: Short Rows and Sweater Fit
Duplicate Stitch
Estonian Inlay
Design Your Own Cables
Colorwork Games
Tesselations: Lace

Kim McBrien Evans
Amy Snell
Tanis Gray
Fiona Ellis
Xandy Peters
Nataile Warner

Saturday, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Secrets from the Skein
Tunisian Crochet
Estonian Braids
Scrapbooking for Knitters
Glenbrook Pull-through Scarf
Tesselations: Textures

Kim McBrien Evans
Barry Klein
Tanis Gray
Fiona Ellis
Xandy Peters
Nataile Warner



Retreat Schedule

Thursday, November 13th

6:00pm: Welcome Meeting
6:15pm: Guest Speaker - TBD
7:30pm-8:30pm: YarnSmarts After Dark

Friday, November 14th

9:30am-10:30am: Morning Kickstart
11:00am-1:00pm: Early afternoon classes
1:30pm-2:30pm: CraftChat
3:00pm-5:00pm: Late afternoon classes
6:00pm-7:00pm: Happy Hour
7:30pm-8:30pm: YarnSmarts After Dark

Saturday, November 15th

9:30am-10:30am: Morning Kickstart
11:00am-1:00pm: Early afternoon classes
1:30pm-2:30pm: CraftChat
3:00pm-5:00pm: Late afternoon classes
6:00pm-7:00pm: Happy Hour
7:30pm-8:30pm: YarnSmarts After Dark

Sunday, January 22nd

10:30am-11:30am: Morning Kickstart
12:00-1:00pm: Keynote speech



Packages and Pricing

Jade Package - \$500

4 classes; access to all events and activities; goodie bag

Olive Package - \$425

3 classes; access to all events and activities; goodie bag

Sage Package - \$350

2 classes; access to all events and activities; goodie bag



About YarnSmarts

My name is Beth Zych and I have been teaching knitting and organizing knitting and crochet classes for over 20 years. First at the local yarn store I owned with my mom, and then at WEBS - America's Yarn Store. For the last five years I've been organizing retreat weekends, and scheduling virtual classes with industry-leading teachers, many of whom I am fortunate to call friends. We love getting together and bringing their unparalleled expertise and passion to students all over the world.

YarnSmarts is the beginning of a new adventure! I'm building a new community - not just for students, but for instructors, designers, and local yarn stores too. A virtual space where we can all come to learn, engage, inspire and celebrate our passion for yarn and all of the wonderful things we can make with it!

In addition to a wide variety of classes that appeal to students of all skill levels, we're offering exciting retreat experiences filled with inspiration and creativity that you'll only find here at YarnSmarts! I hope you'll join us and get ready to have a fantastic weekend of fiber-filled fun from the comfort of your own home!