



WEBS
Knitting Retreat

What's Included?

All of your meals from the Thursday Night Welcome Dinner through Sunday Brunch with Keynote Speaker, Carson Demers!

Late-night knitting get-togethers with snacks, desserts, and cocktails, plenty of time to meet up with friends or make new knitting buddies, and lots of yarn to see, feel, and buy!

Two days of classes on Friday and Saturday with some of the most talented knitting instructors in the industry.

Exclusive after-hours shopping spree on Saturday evening.

Plenty of fun surprises throughout the retreat!



WEBS Fall Knitting Retreat September 21st - September 24th 2023

WEBS Knitting Retreat is a weekend of fiber, friends, food and foliage! We'll be welcoming knitters to the beautiful Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts for a weekend of classes, late-night knitting, after-hours shopping sprees, and more. If you've been waiting to make a pilgrimage to America's biggest yarn store, now's the time to make your move!



Shopping, Sponsors, and Swag

On Saturday night, you'll enjoy a private shopping spree and the opportunity to talk with our sponsors about their yarns and garments. The icing on the cake is that whatever you buy, you will get **FREE SHIPPING!** And in case you can't make a decision on Saturday evening, the store will be open to shoppers on Sunday, and again, **FREE SHIPPING!**

Our sponsors will make your weekend as unique and luxurious as possible starting with additions to your sumptuous swag bag! They will also be on hand Saturday night at WEBS with trunk shows, reps, and designers ready to show you their most popular yarns and garments!

Instructors

We have some of the most sought-after instructors sharing their expertise this weekend!

Shana Bilow

Carson Demers

Fiona Ellis

Tanis Gray

Marie Greene

Keith Leonard

Hotel UMass

Enjoy cozy comfort and deluxe accommodations at Hotel UMass! Enjoy fabulous, fresh meals and snacks, nooks for knitting and a 'late-night lounge' with desserts, drinks, and a chance to knit and talk knitting with those who understand your fiber passion.

*Not staying at UMass for the retreat? Check out our **Sport Package** option for commuters!*



Teacher Bios

Tanis Gray

A graduate of RISD, Tanis 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 and is the author of 15 knitting books, the latest two coming out in September 2023. She is an avid quilter, cross stitcher, photographer, enjoys Sashiko, hiking, Sudoku, cycling, jigsaw puzzles, baking, crewel work, and spoon carving. She has won first place nationally for the American Heritage Award and the National Women in the Arts Award numerous times for Fiber Arts.



Marie Greene

Marie Greene is an internationally known designer, author and knitting teacher. She is the founder of Olive Knits and the Knit Camp app, and the author of four (soon to be five!) books on knitting, including *Seamless Knit Sweaters in 2 Weeks*, and her upcoming release *The Joy of Yarn*. Her renegade knitting tricks, and cheerful teaching style, have helped knitters around the world knit with skill and confidence. Marie teaches the "how" AND the "why" and empowers her students with the skills to be the boss of their own knitting. You'll love her candid insights, brilliant tips and hilarious stories that will not only teach and inspire you but will keep you laughing along the way. Marie lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband, puppy, and two cats.





Keynote Speech
Sunday, September 24th by
Carson Demers!

Teacher Bios

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 and 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. She is the author of Inspired Cable Knits, Knitspiration Journal and Inspired Fair Isle Knits. She is also an instructor at Craftsy. When she isn’t knitting she is also a qualified yoga instructor. 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>



Carson Demers

Carson Demers is a physical therapist with 30-years’ experience. He has been knitting even longer. He became interested in ergonomics when a set of computing related injuries which left him temporarily unable to treat patients or knit. Ergonomics, has been his passion ever since. Carson has written and published the preeminent book on ergonomics for knitters and fiber enthusiasts, Knitting Comfortably: The Ergonomics of Handknitting which is available at www.ergoiknit.com and yarn shops around the world. He has taught classes to knitters, crocheters, spinners, weavers and other textile enthusiasts for 15-years at major knitting events, fiber retreats and festivals, yarn shops, guilds throughout North America. Carson has contributed articles to numerous fiber and crafting magazines and been a consultant to writers at Martha Stewart Living and other publications. His passion and experience in fiber arts combine with his expertise in physical therapy and ergonomics to create a unique skill set that he eagerly shares with the fiber community.



Teacher Bios

Shaina Bilow

Shaina is a knitwear designer and knitting instructor from Northern New Jersey. Her design aesthetic is modern cozy with a flair for indulging in exciting knitting techniques, textures, and motifs. Shaina's designs have been featured in numerous knitting magazines, seasonal collections for popular yarn companies, and in her own self-published collection. She feels knitting can be relaxing and engaging all at once.

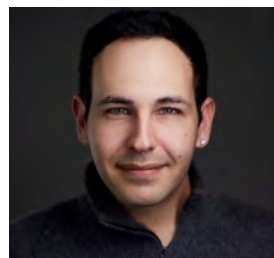
Shaina has taught on the national stage with Vogue Knitting Live, WEBS, and in local yarn shops. She is known as a knowledgeable and encouraging instructor who wants her students to feel empowered, whether they are picking up needles for the first time or are advanced-level knitters and crocheters.

Her YouTube channel features "Tiny Tutorials" that succinctly explain how to work a myriad of different knitting techniques.



Keith Leonard

Keith gained a love for knitting at the age of eleven when he joined a lunchtime knitting program at school in his hometown of Hawthorth, New Jersey. After working at four major knitting stores in Upstate New York, New Jersey, and New York City, he realized there was no specialized service for knitwear finishing. He took the initiative to start his own business, called *Knits All Done*, a service for knitters to outsource their knitted items for professional finishing. Keith's expertise in finishing and knitting then led to requests from yarn shops and knitting guilds to teach his techniques. He now travels the country teaching classes while also selling his own custom Zen Yarn Garden, Three Irish Girls, Malabrigo and Koigu yarns and colors. He is also the American distributor for Soulwool, a hand-dyed Merino yarn from Israel.



Tanis Gray

Fair Isle 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 Pragma Hat or Cowl – knitter's choice!

Advanced Fair Isle: Got the hang of colorwork and feel ready to move to a smaller gauge? Want to work in a small circumference and learn how to make Latvian Braids? Now that you know the basics, let's step up your colorwork game! We'll cover stranded colorwork on 2 small circular needles (DPNs an d Magic Loop are fine – but class will be taught on 2 small circs ONLY), Latvian braids, afterthought thumbs, chart reading refresher, how to block colorwork, and how to use mitten forms, as we work up a pair of Outpost Fingerless Mitts.

Design Your Own Fair Isle Cowl: Ready to move beyond basic stranded colorwork? Interesting in trying your hand at designing? Let your imagination and creativity take over in this Design Your Own Fair Isle 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.

Mosaic Knitting: The easygoing cousin of stranded colorwork, slip-stitch or mosaic knitting is a fun and easy technique that brings more color into your work without the stranding or trapping of floats. We'll knit up the Bow Tie Pasta Fingerless Mitts pattern, discuss the different types of colorwork, how to read charts, mattress stitching, basic color theory, and finishing techniques.

Classes

Marie Greene

Pick-Up Artist: If you love knitting sweaters but dread the finishing, struggle with button bands, or get flustered by picking up stitches, you need this game-changing sweater finishing workshop! Learn the secrets of professional finishing – picking up stitches, necklines, button bands and so much more in this best-selling workshop.

Yarn Cocktails: Learn the secrets of creating your own marled and tonal yarn combinations without ever touching a dye pot! I'll show you how to maximize your yarn's potential with my unique and strategic yarn mixology recipes. In this hands-on, interactive workshop we'll dive into color theory, fiber content, yarn weight considerations and more! You'll learn how to do more with your favorite yarns, add a new layer of creativity to your projects, and create one-of-a-kind yarn combinations that will make you the talk of the fiber town!

Best Sweater Ever: Are you ready to knit your Best Sweater Ever? Knitting a great-fitting sweater doesn't have to be a mystery. Frustrated about fit? Overwhelmed about ease? This workshop is for you! I'll teach you everything you need to know to turn your knitting skills into a successful sweater (that fits!).

Block Party: What if I told you that the secret to great looking knits might be hiding in the bath? It's true! If you aren't yet a convert to the miracles of blocking - or can't figure out why your blocking isn't turning out the way you hope - you will LOVE this workshop! I'll show you the ins and outs of blocking from shawls to sweaters – for a more professional finish. We'll do everything hands-on in class and you'll practice what you learn in real time. If your shawls turn out wonky, if the edges of your sweaters don't lay right – this class is for you! We'll unravel the mysteries of blocking once and for all!

Carson Demers

The Ergonomic Efficiency of English Style Knitting: (a.k.a. "throwing"). This class is a deep dive into the original techniques and landmarks of English knitting, what we've done to make it seem inefficient and slow, and how to undo or modify those faulty variations. Knitters will learn to knit more efficiently and more comfortably with this class. Class is appropriate for knitters who have a basic understanding and some experience with knitting in the English style. Beginners are welcome but this is not a learn-to-knit class for first timers

Continental Knitting Comfort and Efficiency: (a.k.a. "picking"). Many continental style knitters aren't getting all they can from the technique because they don't use the traditional methods. This class is a deep dive into how to improve your technique, lower your risk of injury, and increase speed and comfort. Class is appropriate for knitters who have a basic understanding and some experience with knitting in the Continental style. Beginners are welcome but this is not a learn-to-knit class for first timers

Swatchbuckling: Avast ye maties! Let's bring improved ergonomics to life in your knitting technique. We'll swatch to improve your posture, comfort, and efficiency. We'll examine yarn tensioning techniques, and all phases of stitch creation first with simple then more challenging swatches and stitches. We'll also look at ways to add movement to knitting to avoid stiffness and injuries caused by disuse. Class is appropriate for students who are comfortable with basic knit purl stitches. Swatches of basic cable and lace patterns are also made in class. Stitch patterns are provided in both charted and written formats.

KnitRX: Knitting is not a "no pain, no gain" activity. Yet many of us take better care of our favorite stash fiber than we do the fibers that allow us to knit—our bodies. Tired muscles, sore joints, and aching backs and necks needlessly plague too many knitters. This class will teach you fun ways of "fiber care" for the most important project you make—YOU! Don't let the preventable keep you from doing what you love. Knit on, safely and comfortably!

Fiona Ellis

Twisting with the Cable Girl: Fiona would like to teach the whole world how to knit cables because she LOVES the technique! In this workshop she will show you how to twist in a number of different ways, how to read charts and how to add cables to simple projects for stunning details. This workshop is a must for newer knitter who love the look of texture, or knitters who need a refresher with a twist.

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.

Designing Your Own Cables (using existing patterns):

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 do this so that you can create something unique and exciting for your next cable project.

Jump Start Your Creativity Fiona is fascinated by the creative process, and has spent many hours studying how to jump-start her own. In this workshop she will share with you some of the methods she had found useful. She will also set an exercise, to be done during the workshop, and give you tips that she hopes you will find helpful on an on-going basis.

Classes

Keith Leonard

Flawless Finishing 1: Learn to professionally assemble your knitwear from the finishing master, Keith Leonard, owner of Knits All Done. In this class, you will use your prepared swatches to learn Keith's tricks behind five different seams. You will also learn the correct way to pick up stitches across both the top and sides of our knitting. Be amazed as the magic unfolds and walk away with the proficient skills to finish your knitwear professionally for years to come. This class has minimal homework.

Flawless Finishing 2: Had fun in "flawless Finishing?" or perhaps you are a finishing pro that wants to jump to the next level in your knitwear-finishing. In this class we will bypass basic seaming and jump into more complex finishing techniques. At the end of this class you will have the skills to conquer the finishing techniques of any project. Learn how to set-in different types of sleeves, master duplicate stitch while weaving in your tails, learn how to line up horizontal stripes and more! This class has minimal homework.

Shaina Bilow

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.

Knit Math 101: Gauge and Magic Numbers for Knitting: Take a deep breath, grab your calculator, and learn how understanding gauge and its relationship to our knits can transform your success when knitting. We will cover gauge extensively and learn Shaina's "Magic Number" – a way to use whatever gauge you're getting on whatever project you want to knit. Have a favorite sweater in worsted weight? Use the "Magic Number" to adapt the pattern for fingering weight to bulky weight and everything in-between.

Keith and Shaina TEAM TEACHING!

Keith and Shaina's Mind Blowing Tips and Tricks: The best way to learn is through experience, right? It doesn't have to be your own personal experience, though. Shaina and Keith will share their top tips for ensuring your finished garments will be treasured additions to your wardrobe. Whether you are thinking about casting on for your first sweater, or feeling a bit dissatisfied by previous knits, this class will offer new approaches to pattern reading and sweater planning. Discussions include the importance of gauge, preparing for successful finishing while you knit, and everything in between, with student questions encouraged.

Cast On and Bind Off with Shaina and Keith: Shaina and Keith will guide you through a collection of useful cast on and bind of techniques. You will cast on with Keith, knit a few rows, and bind off with Shaina. You will learn when and why to use certain techniques over others, plus great tips for the cast ons and bind offs you are already familiar with.

Class Schedule

Friday AM: 9:00am-12:00pm

Ergonomic English Style	Carson Demers
Pick-Up Artist	Marie Greene
Fair Isle 101	Tanis Gray
Twisting with the Cable Girl	Fiona Ellis
Flawless Finishing 1	Keith Leonard
Continental Knitting is Fun	Shaina Bilow

Friday PM: 1:30pm-4:30pm

Continental Knitting Comfort	Carson Demers
Yarn Cocktail	Marie Greene
Advanced Fair Isle	Tanis Gray
Inspired Cables	Fiona Ellis
Tips and Tricks	Keith L. & Shaina B.

Saturday AM: 9:00am-12:00pm

Swatchbuckling	Carson Demers
Best Sweater Ever	Marie Greene
Design Your Fair Isle Cowl	Tanis Gray
Design Your Own Cables	Fiona Ellis
Flawless Finishing 2	Keith Leonard
Knit Math 101	Shaina Bilow

Saturday PM: 1:30pm-4:30pm

KnitRX	Carson Demers
Block Party	Marie Greene
Mosaic Knitting	Tanis Gray
Jump Start Your Creativity	Fiona Ellis
Cast On Bind Off	Keith L. & Shaina B.

Retreat Schedule

Thursday, September 21st

3:00pm-5:00pm: Check in at UMass hotel and Retreat Registration

6:00pm: Welcome dinner hosted by Valley Yarns, Tahki/Stacy Charles

8:00pm-9:30pm: Late-night knitting and socializing with cash bar in the late night lounge.

Friday, September 22nd

8:00am: Breakfast

9:00am-Noon: Morning classes

12:15pm -1:15pm: Lunch with sponsor presentation

1:30pm-4:30pm: Afternoon classes

6:00pm: Dinner with cash bar and sponsor presentation

8:00pm-9:30pm: Late-night knitting and socializing with cash bar in the late night lounge.

Saturday, September 23rd

8:00am: Breakfast

9:00am - Noon: Morning Classes

12:15pm - 1:15pm: Lunch with sponsor presentation

1:30pm - 4:30pm: Afternoon classes

4:30pm - 6:00pm: Boxed Dinner Pick-up

WEBS Shopping Spree featuring trunk shows and special deals! **FREE SHIPPING** for purchases.

8:30pm:-10:00pm: Late-night knitting and socializing with cash bar in the late night lounge.

Sunday, September 24th

9:30am: Brunch with Keynote Speaker,

11:00am: Check out of hotel.

WEBS will be open from 11:00am until 1:00pm for last minute shoppers!

Make sure you leave extra time before you travel home on Sunday to explore the beautiful downtown Northampton area. Have a late lunch, browse our many clothing boutiques and local artisan galleries, and leave with wonderful memories, new friends made, and a resolve to join us for our WEBS Knitting Retreats in 2024!



WEBS
Knitting Retreat

Retreat Packages

Worsted Package: \$1,599

Includes classes, all meals, all sponsor presentations, Late Night Lounge events, shopping night with free shipping, swag bag, and 3 nights of (single/private) room accommodations!

DK Package: \$1,459

Includes classes, all meals, all sponsor presentations, Late Night Lounge events, shopping night with free shipping, swag bag, and 3 nights of (double/shared) room accommodations!

Sport Package: \$899

Includes classes, all meals, all sponsor presentations, Late Night Lounge events, shopping night with free shipping, and a swag bag!

(does not include overnight accommodations)