



YarnSmarts

Yarn Lovers Fall Retreat

September 24-27, 2026

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
- Keynote with special guest Patty Lyons
- Classes with industry-leading instructors

Kate Atherley

Ana Campos

Fiona Ellis

Barry Klein

Nina Machlin Dayton

Xandy Peters

Natalie Warner

Harry Wells



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

It's that time of year!! Summer is transitioning into Fall and I, for one, am looking forward to Sweater Weather and to casting on new projects!

Whether you're looking to learn a new technique, or brush up your skills, our fabulous teachers and speakers are ready to instruct and intrigue you - all from the comfort of your own favorite crafting space! From brioche and Portuguese knitting to playing with color, and fun new techniques to finishing you're sure to find classes that will inspire you and rekindle your crafting. And, as always, you'll have time to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones. There's a little something for everyone in this jam-packed weekend!

I'm so looking forward to spending this wonderful weekend with you and to introducing you to some of my friends you may not have met yet. I absolutely love putting these special retreats together just for you and I truly hope you'll enjoy all that this one has to offer.

Remy and I can't wait to see you in the Zoom where it happens - your front row seat is waiting for you!

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

Ana Campos



Ana Campos is a knitting and crochet instructor originally from Brazil. She now calls Salem, Massachusetts home, where she runs her yarn shop, Circle of Stitches, and Toil & Trouble, her indie yarn dyeing

studio. Ana has a wealth of fiber knowledge to share, with over 30 years of knitting and crochet experience and extensive technical knowledge. She brings her experience as a former architect to the fiber arts, specializing in construction techniques, and fixes and repairs. As a founding member of Vogue Knitting LIVE!'s former Diversity Advisory Council, she continues to work to advocate for inclusion and accessibility in the fiber arts. You can find her teaching at guilds and events across the country.

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>

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."

Nina Machlin Dayton



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

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.

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.

Harry Wells



Teaching and knitting are passions for Harry. In 2010, he retired from being a university professor to pursue his passion for knitting professionally. He teaches a myriad of classes at knitting conferences and fiber festivals on the regional and national circuit, for knitting guilds, and for knitting retreats. His extensive experience in classroom presentation and course preparation makes for an organized and engaging learning experience, whether in person or virtually. He enjoys designing knitwear and accessories for both men and women, with an aesthetic that emphasizes texture and linear flow. Check out his designs and knitting blog at www.goodforaboy.com. He is Knitteryninja on Ravelry, @harrywellsknits on Instagram, and Good for a Boy Knitting on Facebook.



Classes

Kate's Classes:

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.

The Pick Up Artist

"Pick up and knit" is an instruction that often causes a lot of stress and worry. This session is all about how to pick up stitches, easily and neatly, to ensure that you have the right number of stitches and the result looks great. We'll cover garment necklines and buttonbands, sock gussets, and mitten thumbs; we'll also talk

about special situations like Entrelac and pick-up-and-purl.

Size & Fit: Why the "Medium" Never Fits Quite Right

The biggest challenge for many knitters when starting a garment project is knowing which size to make. This class will show you how to decide - and set you well on the way to a successful and flattering sweater. We'll explain how to read measurement tables and schematics to understand how a garment is sized. We'll show you how to measure yourself properly to make the right choice. And most importantly, we'll explain garment fit, including demystifying terms like "negative ease"- and show you how to choose the right pattern from the start.

The "Holey Grail" - Avoiding Gaps and Holes

This class focuses on tips and techniques for dealing with common holes and gaps in your knitting: why they're there, how to avoid making them, and how to deal with them up if they do happen. We'll talk about mitten thumbs, underarms in seamless garments, sock gusset pickups, necklines, starts and ends of rounds, and more! Bring your questions and holes!

Ana's Classes

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 start knitting a cowl that starts with basic techniques (Portuguese knit and purl), and then move to stranded colorwork. Portuguese Knitting makes it easier to control the tension of your floats, making for easy stranded knitting!

Finish like a Pro: Beautiful Seams and Joins

Level up your knitting! The finishing process is an important element that is often overlooked. It can make the difference between knits that look okay (or a little wonky) and knits that look truly polished. Take your knitting to the next level and learn how to expertly weave in ends, invisibly seam your knits along vertical and horizontal edges, and properly pick up stitches along finished edges.

Fiona's Classes:

Tints, Tones & Knitting Two Colors Together

Many knitters find it difficult to choose colours. This class will show you how to put color theory into practice, so that those scary sounding terms make sense. You will look at color temperature, tonal value, complimentary and analogous color schemes along with many other terms. But once you get playing with colour you will see how the theory can be a helpful underpinning. In combination with the colour exercises, instruction will be given on the techniques used for working with multi colors; Stripes, Fair Isle, Instarsia, Slip Stitch etc.

Knitting as Meditation

We've heard the phrase "Knitting is the New Yoga". Fiona loves both yoga and knitting. Join her as she brings awareness to what is taking place during our knitting practice. She will lead some knitting exercises that will begin to teach many of the things she has learned from yoga. You can expect to come away with something new and useful; that may be a nifty new knitting trick or, you may learn something about yourself and how knitting can be used as meditation

Barry's Classes:

New Ways to Do Just About Everything!

Cast on, bind off, pick up dropped stitches, full fashion inc, full fashion decrease, assembling pieces and more. Let's take the basics that we already now and move them up to the next levels. There will be a few surprises in this class that will help you enjoy your yarns even more.

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.

Magical Miters in New Directions

Not diamonds or triangles but boxes that layer and lean into each other and more. Play with color, textures, and learn how to use up your stash. (We have the assumption that you have a stash....oooh yes you do!) All of the ideas are fun to do and really quick and they will allow you to become your own designer in the easiest way.

New Yarns and How to Make the Most of Them

Textured, ruffled, open edges, plied, lashed and more. In this class, you will receive a few yarns from a group of new yarns and we will go about creating samples with them to detail them, add edges, use for embellishment stripes on top, create layers and more. All of the ideas are fun to do and really quick so you can finish a complete project quickly as we head towards the Holiday season.

Nina's Classes:

Flawless Finishing

Many a beautifully knit sweater or accessory falls short in the finishing process. We will examine the best practices for the steps that make our projects more polished looking – picking up stitches for button bands, seaming (vertical to vertical, horizontal to horizontal, and vertical to horizontal for the dreaded set-in sleeve), blocking, and weav-

ing in ends. Take your projects to the next level by learning the techniques and tricks that make them look impeccable!

Beaded Garter Stitch Cuffs

Together we will learn the techniques to make these beaded garter stitch cuffs which are traditional in Lithuania and Latvia. Made with 6/0 seed beads and DK weight yarn they work up more quickly than the traditional cuffs they are inspired by, and teach a wonderful beading technique that you can use to embellish any number of different knitting projects that you want to add a bit of sparkle to!

Xandy's Classes:

Introduction to Brioche

We will make a basic swatch and look at the unique terms and symbols used in brioche stitch patterns. The second half of the class is dedicated to examining and understanding our brioche swatches and troubleshooting common mistakes. This class focuses on 2-color brioche worked flat, but information will also be provided for 1-color (it's more advanced than with 2 colors!) and circular techniques.

Fixing Mistakes in Brioche

If you enjoy knitting brioche stitch but still feel lost if a mistake occurs, this class will get you back on track. Brioche mistakes, like the stitch itself, are unique from other knitting mistakes and often require a special set of skills. In this class, we will look at the structure of brioche fabric and learn when and how to rip back multiple rows, fix ladder stitches, and even correct a missed increase or decrease. We will also learn how to spot mismatched, dropped or twisted tuck stitches. Each student will cast on and begin a swatch of simple brioche stitch before class and are encouraged to follow along with demos of each fix. They will also have an opportunity to bring in their own brioche projects for help and advice.

Stitch by Color

Have you ever struggled to find project ideas for multicolored yarn? In this class we will create colorwork, texture, or lace using variegated yarn as our guide. In plain stockinette or garter stitch, multicolor yarns create linear patterns.

You can completely change the way a multicolor yarn looks by isolating or manipulating the colors with your stitches. Students will learn 15+ stitches that can be used in assigned pooling and knit by color patterns and have a chance to experiment with different stitches. At the end of class, everyone will share their results and discuss how each rule affected the outcome of their stitch pattern.

Color Theory for Fiber Artists

Learn strategies to help you quickly and efficiently try out exciting yarns and colors in your knitting. First, we will use coloring pages to explore our innate color sense. The fundamental concepts of color interaction and theory will be introduced in a lecture format. During the presentation, students will learn about the color wheel, historical points of interest, and will see examples of quick and dirty color-ups from a fashion industry perspective, focusing on methods of exploring color combinations without the expense of yarn and the time intensive process of swatching. Students are encouraged to bring in "difficult" yarns, spinning fiber, and color inspiration. Coloring and knitting swatches during the lecture time is encouraged.

In the second half of the class, we discuss everyone's coloring pages and yarn comparisons. This is an interactive and conversational class, designed to show range of palettes and color perspectives and how a pattern is changed by color.

Natalie's Classes:

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.

Surface Pattern Design for Knits - Stranded Colourwork

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 stranded colourwork. 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!

Harry's Classes: **Colorwork the Easy Way**

Slip-stitch patterns can boast amazing colorwork without the hassle of stranding or working with multiple colors in a row! Stunning results such as intricate mosaic designs, textural colorwork like houndstooth, and more are in your future. Along

with the basic mosaic knitting technique for garter and stockinette, learn to predict when combinations of variegated and solid color yarn work together and when they will not, and how charts are written and read differently for mosaic knitting. Practical tips about navigating the technique and advice regarding the best uses for mosaic knitting are included. Also covered are examples of adding slip stitch to basic garter and progressively adding one, two, and three colors to achieve stunning colorwork results with so little effort!

Flipside Awesomeness - Reversible Cables

Cables are lovely...until you flip them over. Now learn how to make them reversible! Learn what can and cannot be reversed, and two methods in developing reversible cable fabric. Many examples of cables—rope, lozenge, celtic braid, horn and more—are covered with step-by-step examination and in-class exercises to convert them to reversible. Participants will be given several reversible sample stitch patterns to knit up.

I'll Put a Hex on You: Hexagon Stitch and Other K1 Below Textures

Knitting in the Stitch below is a stitch that creates a wide variety of textural interest. We will learn and practice the K1 Below technique on a one color Twisted Moss pattern practice on a two-color check pattern and other 1, 2, and 3 color textures, and then move on to the more complex Hexagon stitch, practicing it flat and in the round on a cowl project. Also, a complex 2 needle cast-on will be taught appropriate for the Hexagon Stitch and any other expansive knitted fabric.

Short Row Magic

Inserting short rows can create angles and curves, making amazing shaped knitted shawls, angles on garments, and additional shaped ease in areas like busts. In this class, you will learn and practice three methods of short rows: Wrap and Turn, Japanese, and German. As time permits, examples of applications with worksheets will be discussed, such as sloped shoulders, short row sleeve cap, and adding extra fabric for the bust area.



Class Schedule

Friday, 11:00am-1:00pm

Math for Knitters Level 1: Solving Knitters' Number Puzzles	Kate Atherley
Portuguese Knitting: From Basics to Colorwork	Ana Campos
New Ways to Do Just About Everything	Barry Klein
Introduction to Brioche	Xandy Peters
Introduction to Dart Manipulation	Natalie Warner
Colorwork the Easy Way	Harry Wells

Friday, 3:00pm-5:00pm

The Pick Up Artist	Kate Atherley
Finish Like a Pro	Ana Campos
Tints, Tones & Knitting Two Colors Together	Fiona Ellis
Tunisian Crochet	Barry Klein
Fixing Mistakes in Brioche	Xandy Peters
Flipside Awesomeness - Reversible Cables	Harry Wells

Saturday, 11:00am-1:00pm

Size & Fit: Why the "Medium" Never Fits Quite Right	Kate Atherley
Magical Miters in New Directions	Barry Klein
Flawless Finishing	Nina Machlin Dayton
Stitch by Color	Xandy Peters
Surface Pattern Design for Knits - Stranded Colourwork	Natalie Warner
I'll Put a Hex on You/Hexagon Stitch & Other K1 Below Textures	Harry Wells

Saturday, 3:00pm-5:00pm

The "Holey Grail" - Avoiding Gaps and Holes	Kate Atherley
Knitting as Meditation	Fiona Ellis
New Yarns and How to Make the Most of Them	Barry Klein
Beaded Garter Stitch Cuffs	Nina Machlin Dayton
Color Theory for Fiber Artists	Xandy Peters
Short Row Magic	Harry Wells



Special Guests



Special Guest, Andra Asars

Andra has been traveling the New England states for over thirty years carrying major yarn brands to the local yarn shops. She's amassed a wealth of experience, wisdom and anecdotes. There's always something new to share

Keynote Speaker, Patty Lyons

Patty Lyons (<http://pattylyons.com/>) is a nationally recognized knitting teacher and technique expert who is known for teaching the "why" not just the "how" in her pursuit of training the "mindful knitter". She specializes in sweater design and sharing her love of the much-maligned subjects of gauge and blocking.

Patty teaches nationally at guilds, shops & knitting shows around the country as well as hosting her own retreats. Her popular classes can also be found on DVD and online through her website on her education site education.pattylyons.com.

Her designs and knitting skill articles have been published in Vogue Knitting, Interweave Knits, Knit Purl, Knitter's Magazine, Cast On, Knit Style, Creative Knitting, Twist Collective and Modern Daily Knitting where she writes a monthly knitter's advice column: "Ask Patty". Patty's designs have also been included in pattern collections from Classic Elite, Noro, Cascade, Tahki Stacy Charles, Sugar Bush and Willow Yarns.

Patty is the author of the best-selling book: *Patty Lyons' Knitting Bag of Tricks & Patty Lyons' Knitting Bag of Tricks: The Official Workbook: Hands-on exercises to improve your knitting skills* Patty's newest book: comes out Oct 1, 2026.



Special Guest, Mary Ann Gebhardt

Mary Ann Gebhardt is a Yoga Instructor, Meditation Teacher, and lifelong fiber artist who blends mindful movement with creative expression. Through her teachings and her book *Knitting Meditation: A 40-Day Journal*, she inspires a slower pace, joyful reflection, and deeper self-connection. knitting customer.



Special Guest, Ellen Lewis

Ellen Lewis is the founder of Crazy for Ewe, a contemporary yarn shop based in Maryland with a global online community of knitters. Since opening the shop in 2004, she has specialized in helping knitters make sweaters that fit perfectly and look professional. Ellen is the creator of The Confident Sweater System, a flagship program that teaches sweater construction, fit, and finishing so knitters can approach any pattern with clarity and confidence. She has taught at Rowan Connect and has contributed articles to Noro Magazine. Through her shop, classes, and online community, Ellen shares her passion for thoughtful knitting and well-made garments.

Retreat Schedule

Thursday, September 24th

6:00pm: Welcome Meeting
6:15pm: Special Guest, Ellen Lewis
7:30pm-8:30pm: YarnSmarts After Dark

Friday, September 25th

9:30am-10:30am: Morning Kickstart
11:00am-1:00pm: Early afternoon classes
1:30pm-2:30pm: Craft & Chat with Special Guest, Andra Asars
3:00pm-5:00pm: Late afternoon classes
6:00pm-7:00pm: Happy Hour
7:30pm-8:30pm: YarnSmarts After Dark

Saturday, September 26th

9:30am-10:30am: Morning Kickstart
11:00am-1:00pm: Early afternoon classes
1:30pm-2:30pm: Craft & Chat with Kate Atherley and Fiona Ellis
3:00pm-5:00pm: Late afternoon classes
6:00pm-7:00pm: Happy Hour
7:30pm-8:30pm: YarnSmarts After Dark with Nina Machlin Dayton

Sunday, September 26th

10:30am-11:30am: Morning Yoga with Special Guest Mary Ann Gebhardt
12:00-1:00pm: Keynote Speech with Sepcial Guest, Patty Lyons



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

Individual Classes - \$85

