

Classes

January through April 2022
Artisan Knitworks

Welcome back, everyone! Artisan Knitworks values safety and health. We therefore require vaccination; we also require masks while in our classes. We may ask you to show us your certificate. We follow CDC and Washtenaw County guidelines. Until the COVID emergency wanes, we will limit class size to 6-8. If classes fill, ask us about tutorials on whatever subject interests you, or (with more than 3) additional sections of a class.

For all classes, we hope you'll buy yarn and tools from us. Always bring a basic tool kit – e.g., tapestry needle, tape measure, scissors, notebook/pen, holders, markers, and appropriate knitting needles or crochet hooks. In almost every case, extensive handouts are supplied.

For scheduled workshops, register in advance (734-562-2682 or in person). Please don't wait until the last minute: We must make decisions about whether to hold a class 5-7 days in advance. If emergencies arise, we appreciate notice so that we can fill spots from waiting lists. With notice, we will issue a store credit for tuition paid. If you don't notify us, we can't issue credit. If we have to cancel a class, you will have a choice of refund methods.

Remember: Classes do not end when formal meetings end. We work with clients during regular shop hours until the project is done. You will not be stuck with UFOs!

105 N Main St, Chelsea, MI 48118 734-562-2682

TUTORIALS FOR BEGINNERS

KNIT OR CROCHET 101 AND 102: LEARN TO KNIT OR CROCHET (ANY SUNDAY, 12:00-2:30) \$20.00

For now, Sandra offers “learn to knit/learn to crochet” tutorials on Sunday afternoon (or on any afternoon by appointment). Tuition is due at the first session. It covers the entire course of study, no matter how many weeks it takes. Knitting or Crochet 101 covers the basics – knit, purl, casting on, casting off (in crochet, chaining, singles, doubles, half-doubles, trebles). Knitting or Crochet 102 shows you a range of pattern stitches as well as an array of shaping techniques. You also will learn about different yarn weights and fibers. We charge only 20 bucks for either 101 or 102 for as many sessions as needed. We are trying to avoid crowding, so if you don’t call in advance, we might have to turn you away or schedule another time. Materials: Ball of Encore or Vintage, appropriate needle or hook. Can be purchased on day of class. Skill Level: For 101, beginner; for 102, advanced beginner.

WORKSHOPS

IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER:

How to Knit Scarves (or Cowls)

Without Expensive Patterns

(Sat., Jan. 22, 3:00-5:00) \$30.00

Especially if you’re a beginner, you might think you need patterns for projects bigger than dishcloths. But you don’t. Sandra has created a long, detailed, scarf roadmap with tips and pointers; we’ll talk it through, consider the extent to which beautiful yarns can carry much of the burden, and demystify the arithmetic. We’ll also talk about the different fibers and how to make sure your scarf will be warm. You’ll start making your own beautiful, uncomplicated scarf or cowl in a stitch pattern of your choice, nicely bordered or not, with or without fringe. You also will build confidence. Materials: 250-350 yards of DK, worsted, Aran, or chunky weight yarn (we can help you choose!) and appropriate needle, basic tool kit, including notepad and pen. Handout provided. Skill level: Beginner and beyond.

Spit ‘N Polish: From Homemade to Handmade (Fri., Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 6:00-8:30) \$60.00

This class is fun as well as essential. Knit and Crochet always benefit from careful finishing. Don’t believe people who say otherwise! Nowadays it’s common enough for people to say that you can skip finishing or eliminate seams without paying a price – not true. For Knitters: We’ll talk about (and make) invisible seams, perfect borders and bands, afterthought pockets, firm buttonholes, blocking (steam), edge stitches, good yarn-end treatments, three-needle bind-offs, firm yarn joins, and more. For Crocheters: Your projects require slightly different techniques, though some techniques are shared, so hang around after each period for additional advice if you crochet. Materials and Homework: 4 or 5 knitted squares, 4 inches each, worsted weight or DK yarn; 1 in garter st, the others in stockinette; two with yarn still attached. Crocheters should make 3-4 4-inch squares in various stitches (SC, HDC, DC, etc.). Bring a small amount of contrasting yarn in the same weight. Needles or hooks appropriate to the yarn. Animal fiber is best but not essential. Try to avoid acrylic (we use steam blocking and acrylic is heat sensitive). Skill level: Advanced beginner and beyond.

Magic-Loop Siamese Socks

(Sun., Jan. 23 and Feb. 6, 12:30-3:30) \$60.00

(Optional 3rd class (Feb. 13 for 3 or more), \$20 extra, payable on Feb. 6)

This is a fabulous experience – just ask former students! Sock designer and teacher Lynne Wardrop has long been in the forefront of “Siamese” sock knitters – that is, ways to make two socks at a time, from the toes up. Plus, she’s a really good teacher. She will help you create a pair of socks, made from the toes up, two at a time, with a magic loop. If you like, you can even buy one of Lynne’s cool patterns for worsted-weight Siamese socks, done originally in Lorna’s Laces worsted-weight Shepherd’s Wool. No more unfinished pairs – sometimes called Second Sock Syndrome! Learn the technique with a pair of cozy boot/slipper socks. Later, you can apply what you learn to any weight of yarn. Knitting Pure and Simple Sock Pattern will be provided. Materials: 40 inch size 4 circular needle (wood or metal) and c. 250 yards worsted weight wool. Buy another skein if you want contrasting toes and heels. Skill level: Advanced beginner to intermediate.

Things Beginning Knitters Don't Know They Need to Know

(Sun., Jan. 30, 3:00-5:00) \$30.00

In this extended conversation, Sandra will help you avoid the kind of mistakes that happen because of partial or inaccurate information. There's no point in tearing projects out, or living with errors, if they can be prevented. You could spend months figuring it all out, or you could get a jump-start! We'll talk about edge stitches, fixing mistakes (dropped stitches, e.g.), gauge swatches (how and why!), why all increases and decreases aren't equal, adding new yarns in various circumstances, how to identify idiotic commercial patterns, how to read charts, how to make maximum use of printed aids, what all of those abbreviations mean, how to keep scarf edges clean, why all cast-on techniques aren't equal, how to ensure neat darn-ins, the meaning of "multiples" and "repeats," how to lengthen or shorten items, and so on. Bring questions. Materials: Ball of DK or worsted weight yarn and appropriate needle, just in case. Skill level: Beginner to intermediate.

Things Beginning Crocheters Don't Know They Need to Know

(Sat., Jan. 29, 3:00-5:00) \$30.00

In this extended conversation, Sandra and/or Linda will help you avoid the kind of mistakes that happen because of partial or inaccurate information. There's no point in tearing projects out, or living with mistakes, if they can be prevented. This mini course provides a jump-start. We'll talk about why so many yarn companies (and pattern companies) so often fail to take account of crocheters. We'll also consider how to know exactly where to make the first stitch when you turn to start a new row (or round), the use of foundation rows to save time, differences between hook shapes and brands, what all of those abbreviations mean, how to prevent 'body armor' fabric, how to make good use of reference books (and how to know silliness when you see it on-line), why tight chains are bad, how to read charts and diagrams, how to do increases and decreases, how to change colors or add yarn, how to get rid of yarn ends (as you work or later), why crochet patterns are so variable, why gauge is important, and so on. Bring questions. Materials: Ball of worsted weight or DK yarn and appropriate hook, just in case. Skill level: Beginner to intermediate.

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Taste of Tunisian (Crochet) (Fri., Mar. 4, 6:00 to 8:00)

\$30.00

In this mini-workshop, Sandra will introduce you to Tunisian Crochet Simple Stitch – it used to be called Afghan Stitch -- and perhaps a few variations. She'll also get you going on a genuinely fun project that takes advantage of some of Tunisian's unique properties. You can make either a fluffy scarf or shawl with one or two strands of yarn (from Aran to chunky weight) or a hugely blown-up and quite airy piece of Tunisian (again, scarf or shawl) on a huge hook. In both cases, she will show you how to make crocheted fringe and, if you like, a matching simple cloche hat with an outrageously big blue hook. As you advance on your project, Sandra will offer help until you finish, any afternoon except Mondays! Materials: Tunisian hook and/or big blue hook (for hat) and appropriate yarns – please buy or bring one ball of chunky weight yarn to class for practice (two strands of DK or worsted will do, or we have some inexpensive yarns that will work for learning purposes). Skill level: Some beginning expertise in crochet (chaining, e.g.).

All About Fibers and Yarns: They're really not the same! (Sun., Mar. 13, 3:00-5:00) \$30.00

In this informal workshop, we will talk about the many animals and plants that produce yarn and roving, and we'll play with some of them. Sandra will have swatches or samples. Wool, alpaca, mohair, silk, llama, angora, yak, hemp, rayon, nylon, viscose, cotton, linen, bamboo, sugar cane (!), Tencel, on and on, have different properties, are manufactured differently, react variously to heat and water, and often dye differently (and with different dyestuffs). Some yarns grow after being made into fabric. Sometimes yarns made from animal and vegetable fibers can be mixed, on other occasions less successfully (here, Sandra disagrees with some of her own teachers). We'll compare synthetic yarns made from varieties of cellulose and those made from petroleum. We'll also talk about so-called "superwash" yarns, their strengths, and limits. We will talk briefly about environmental impacts of various milling and growing methods. Finally, synthetic yarns and fibers have been unfairly dismissed by many artisans as inferior or unworthy of labor. Quality synthetics have a use and, as with so many other things, come in superior and inferior varieties. Brief handout supplied. Materials: Notepad (if you take notes!). Skill level: All but expert.

**Make It Fit: How to Avoid Disaster
and Love Your New Sweater**
(Saturdays, March 26 and April 2., 3.00 to 5.30
\$60.00

In this workshop, Sandra will help you figure out how to ensure sweaters actually fit, and then how to change pattern details that you don't like. Once you learn the basics of sweater construction, you will be empowered and liberated. We begin by measuring bodies. Then we sketch a basic pullover or cardigan (modified drop or set-in sleeve, not raglan for this course) that will fit. We'll talk about degrees of "ease." During the second session, we'll have a look at commercial patterns that you think you almost like – we'll consider how to make them more like what you have in mind. If you bring a commercial pattern, make sure it comes with a schematic. Then, during the second session and later, whenever you drop in for help, you will make the simple pullover or cardigan that you've designed or revised – and, again, make it fit perfectly. You will then be able to alter every other pattern you will ever find (if it's a good pattern!) for you or anyone else, so that sweaters always fit. You will be better equipped to know when a pattern isn't well written. You can add pockets, shorten and lengthen sweaters already in your collection – and so on. As we move along, we will also talk about industry sizing, fibers, the peculiarities of certain stitch patterns, and so on. Materials: Enough DK or worsted yarn to make a standard sweater (1200 to 1800 yards), to be purchased by start of second class, with appropriate needle. Once you have yarn, you will be making a swatch, so bring a pencil, basic tools, a range of needles, and graph paper. Google "free graph paper" and print. Make sure it's quarter-inch blocks. Skills: Advanced beginner and beyond.

**Modular Magic: All About Mitered Squares (Sat.,
Feb. 26 and March 5, 2:30-5:30) \$60.00**

In this fun and liberating workshop, you will learn how to turn simple mitered squares into a ruana, scarf, shawl, hat, blanket, pillow, sweater, or poncho – your choice – with or without a commercial pattern. Sandra can also show you how to introduce some variety into your squares

with shots of patterning or color. We'll also talk about how to prevent disaster with attention to linearity, proper edge stitches and careful pick-ups. By the second session, you'll be casting on your self-designed project and having immense fun. With this technique, the sky is the limit. Handout provided, along with some book recommendations. Materials: Yarn for your chosen project, appropriate needle, and basic tools. Skill level: Advanced beginner and beyond. **See examples in shop (e.g., ruanas).

Modular Magic: All About Knitted Triangles
(Sat., March 12 and 19, 2:30-5:30) \$60.00

This used to be called the Orkney Vest class, and you can still make one of those – the shop has at least one example as well as printed patterns! But you also can make shawls, hats, eccentric scarves, all kinds of things beyond the vest. We begin with basic techniques – how to make a triangle and pick up the next one, how to map out a sweater or scarf or shawl, e.g., in right-angle triangles, and how to think about sizes and the lengths of triangles' sides. We'll talk about edge stitches (where appropriate), picking up stitches, and other vital techniques. By the second class, you'll be well on your way to making something original. Materials: Ball of smooth DK or worsted weight yarn for practice, appropriate needles, notepad and pen; also yarn for your chosen project with appropriate needles. Handout provided. Skill level: Advanced beginner and beyond.

For May and June: We'll offer classes in how to make a Free-Form Log-Cabin Square Jacket or Poncho (ask me to show you!) as well as a crocheted Colorissimo shawl (ditto)! We'll have a Sunday afternoon devoted to making a basketful of knitted or crocheted flowers!!! And we'll offer a workshop about a crocheted top-down cloche made from one ball of yarn! Stay tuned.

..... Tell us what you want to learn over the summer (email is artisan.svb@gmail.com)