

Through the Shop Window

...the "little shop around the corner" on Mill Street



"From the unique to the antique!"

5605 Mill Street, Richmond, IL 60071 (815) 678-4063

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Why I Love My Work

Not to brag, but I have the best job on the planet. I don't mean my "day job"-although that isn't bad, either (and in this economy I'm very glad to have it). The job I'm referencing is my job in our shop.

Before I go much further, I feel it necessary to address some common misconceptions about the owners of yarn shops. First, we would love to sit and work on our projects all day, but in fact we have less time to knit than our customers. Running the shop requires work (ordering, stocking, cleaning, and hauling wood to stoke the stove are just a few of our chores). Second, just because we own the business doesn't mean we can work only when we feel like it. We have an obligation to our customers to keep regular hours, and since we have no employees, vacations and days off are few and far between. And, most important, you are not allowed to have a bad day (even if you are in the middle of one), just smile and deal with it!

With that said, let me tell you why the job is so good.

- 1) *Every customer is a friend who's come to visit, so our home is always filled with company.*
- 2) *I get to see my friends be successful at their endeavors.*
- 3) *I have the opportunity to share my knowledge with them.*
- 4) *I get to share their joy of discovery and pride in their accomplishments.*
- 5) *I get to see people at their best-relaxed, happy, and free to be themselves.*
- 6) *God uses them to bless me, even though I haven't done anything to merit such abundant blessings.*
- 7) *And of course, I can take my dog to work with me!*

So, grab one of your projects and come in. There's a chair by the fire just waiting for you. Remember 10AM-5PM every Sunday is our "Open Workshop", where the coffee's hot and the help is always free. Come on in!

April Classes

Advanced Spinning Techniques Tuesdays April 6-27 7 PM – 9 PM If your wheel won't make the type of yarn you want-this class is for you. We'll cover worsted, woolen, and downy fiber techniques. You can spin what you want from ANY fleece if you apply the correct techniques. Spin bulky woolen or thread thin, spin to knit or spin to weave-with some simple adjustments and tricks, you can master your wheel. Learn when to use different whorls, how to adjust for proper tension, and how to adjust your speed to get the results you want. The class fee is \$65, and students must bring their own spinning wheels. Class is limited to 6 students.

Advanced Knitting Techniques Wednesdays April 7-28 7 PM – 9 PM If you are ready to move to the next level of knitting, this technique class had just what you're looking for. We'll cover Fair Isle, Stranded, Intarsia, and Entraloc knitting. Students will work small projects to learn to master all these techniques. So, if you want to be a better knitter and do more with knitting needles and yarn, this class is for you. Space is limited to 6 students. The class fee is \$60, and does not include materials. This is a great class to use up some of those single skeins in your stash!

Knitted Jewelry Thursdays April 8-29 7 PM – 9 PM You can create fantastic jewelry with knitting. If you love beaded jewelry but hate the thought of working with loose beads, we have the answer. This class will teach you how to knit with a string of beads to create fantastic necklaces and bracelets. The technique is simple, fast, and the results are stunning. We will work with kits that include all the materials. The class fee is \$60, and does not include the cost of the kit. Class is limited to 4 students.

Changes for the 2011 Winter Retreat

The 2011 Winter Retreat will be held Jan 28-30 in McGregor Iowa at the Little Switzerland Inn and McGregor's Landing. Prices are based on the choice Inn and your choice of a private or shared space, and range from \$80 to \$145. The package includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Our maximum number of tickets is 25. At this time there are only 7 spaces remaining. All tickets must be paid by May 31, 2010, and are NOT refundable (we pay the Inns in advance). Please contact us at the shop for tickets-payable by cash or check (please, no credit cards due to their additional fees).

We are expanding our hours on a trial basis. In addition to our evening and weekend hours, we will be opening Thursdays from 10AM to 5PM. Stop in and see what's going on!