

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

January 2015

Winter Survival Kit

It is winter and I'm just thrilled to death! Months of snow removal, clearing car windows, salting the walks, hauling firewood, high heating bills-who could ask for more? And let's not forget that you'll only see the light of day on the weekends. It's dark when you leave for work and darker when you're driving home.

Well, you can make winter a lot easier to deal with if you have make a "Winter Survival Kit". Your basic kit should contain a wool hat, alpaca scarf, double knit mittens or gloves, a warm sweater, wool socks, felted slippers, and enough yarn, hooks, and needles to keep you occupied until the weather warms up (Take it from me, Penny is all over the yarn, needles, and hooks part). Those of you who spin or weave can substitute as needed to complete your kit.

Having been born in the Midwest, I do enjoy the change of seasons. However, I think that winter is best enjoyed from the inside, and I find great joy in it changing into spring. The crisp air of winter only enhances the crackling of a wood fire or the pleasure and enjoyment of a good pair of wool socks. The crunching of the snow beneath your feet makes the hat and mittens all the warmer, and there is nothing like a cold blast of winter wind to enhance the appreciation of a hand-made scarf.

You get the idea. Winter survival is not an accident-it's planned. Do you need to get your kit put together? We can help. We have just what you need.

So, if you're cold this winter you have nobody to blame but yourself. Now, where are my size 6 needles? I need to knit another glove.

February Classes

Beginning Crochet Tuesdays, Feb 3-24 7PM-9PM Crochet is an old art, faster than knitting, and more adaptable to free form garments and artistic expression. However, before you can explore the possibilities, you need to master the basic stitches and understand how the stitches work together. Thus, we offer this beginning class. As many of you know, last year I even learned to crochet! We will cover all the basic stitches and reading patterns. The class is \$80, and does not include materials (\$20-\$30 should cover the cost of a hook and basic materials). The class is limited to 3 students.

Beginning Spinning Wednesdays, Feb 4-25 7PM-9PM If you never spun wool and don't own a wheel, here's your class. We'll start with controlling the direction of the wheel and go forward from there. In fact, you'll finish your first skein on the first night (Class 2 gets harder). Spinning is easy, fun, and a skill you can learn. The class fee is \$125 and includes use of a wheel, all your fiber, instruction, and practice time in the studio. The class is limited to 4 students.

Knitting with Double Points Thursdays, Feb 5-26 7PM-9PM If you can knit an purl, but are afraid of working with double pointed needles, this is the class for you! We'll help you conquer your fear and teach you the tricks of "knitting with a porcupine". The project will be simple gloves, so you'll get plenty of practice. The class fee is \$80, and materials are under \$20 (if you choose the recommended yarn). The class is limited to 4 students, and will require some knitting outside of class.

**Please note that the shop will be closed
December 31-January 1 for the
New Year's Holiday
and
January 23-25 for the Winter Retreat**

The January retreat has sold out.

However, for those of you attending the Winter Retreat please note:
We will be leaving the shop promptly at 8 AM on Friday, January 23rd.
If you will not be traveling with us and need directions, please call before Friday.

Don't forget your pot luck item. Please check with Penny if you are not sure for which meal your dish is needed.

The shop will be open one hour prior to departure for any last minute purchases.

Hazel has the weekend off so we are responsible for cleaning up after ourselves, as always, your help is greatly appreciated. Enjoy!