

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

June 2015

The Hardest Day of My Life

As most of you know, we have been awaiting the arrival of The Baby Aalto-Henry, our first grandchild. We were thrilled at his arrival on Tuesday, May 26th. He was on the small side (4#, 17" long) but we didn't mind. Henry had a little problem—a hole in his diaphragm, which put him at high risk. After returning home that evening, we were called back to hospital. Things were not going well, and after a lengthy surgery, the baby was put on life support. There was nothing to do but wait and pray. By Thursday morning, things had gotten worse, and the decision was made to give Henry back to God. That day was the hardest day of my life. But, by the grace of God, I lived through it, and I am forever changed.

I have seen our children (Spring and Jeff) handle the worst situation in life with grace and love. I have seen their child die in their arms. And in spite of this, they gracefully gave him to God. I have seen the depth of their ability to love another person.

In the moment Henry passed, God answered the millions of prayers for his healing. He is now flawless.

I have seen God work in wonderful ways, taking our impossible grief in His hands and allowing us to go on.

God knit Henry in the womb—he was wonderfully made—even though a stitch was dropped. That wasn't a mistake, but part of the pattern.

We have peace with what has happened. Yes, there are questions, loss, and mourning. The image of that little child will be forever in my mind. The sacred moments I experienced as he passed are now a part of me—vividly burned in my memory—every color, sound, and image.

I have survived the worst day of my life—I can now go through anything. God carried me through on His shoulders. He has the power to keep me going.

I never held Henry on this earth—I knew I wouldn't from the time we first learned of him.



School is out-but....

As usual, we will not be scheduling group classes for May-August. However, we are available to teach one-on-one classes. If there is something you would like to learn, please call the shop. We would be happy to arrange a class.

Shop Summer Hours

Tues-Fri 7PM-9PM & Sat-Sun 11AM-4PM

Fiber Show Update

Our next event is **The Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival in Jefferson, WI on September 11-13**. See you there!

2016 Winter Retreat is filling up. Check the events page for details.

Fiber in the Forest June 26 - 28

Like camping and fiber? Then join us for a weekend of campfires, fiber, food, and fun. We know that several of our old customers who have moved away will be attending this event. It should be a fun-filled weekend that will pass much too quickly. Be sure to be a part of it and get your site reserved today. If you don't camp, plan on spending Saturday with us at the park. Full details are available on our "Events" page.

The shop will be closed the following days

June 26-28 *Fiber in the Forest at Chain-O-Lakes State Park
July 3-6 Independence Day holiday
Aug 29 – Sept 15 Labor Day holiday and the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival in Jefferson, Wisconsin

Penny will be attending The National Needle Arts convention in Columbus, OH in early June, while I will be holding down the fort, running the shop, and tending to Mollie, Tootsie, Dobbie, Birdie, and Mrs. Bucket.

Somehow, I just knew it-but, I will hold him in heaven. I am a patient man. I can wait. After all, I have God's word on it. See you on the other side, Henry.

*Henry William Aalto
May 26, 2015 – May 28, 2015*