

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

March 2014

A Brief History of Crochet

For those of you who don't know it-I have now crocheted. It's not my most favorite thing to do, and I dare say I'm no master of it, but I have done it. While learning the stitches, I contemplated how this art form began, and had the following thoughts.

My guess is that it began in the Middle Ages. Once upon a time, two young Lords were in a heated fencing match. One was the English Earl of Knitting and the other a young French Chevalier. Their foils clashed, and the sound of ringing metal blades filled the air. Seated in the gallery above them were a couple young maidens. Their eyes followed the flashing blades until one fateful thrust was made-was this the end for the young Chevalier? No! For under his tunic he wore a shirt of fine chain mail. His opponent's foil made contact with the light armor and bent the tip into a small hook shape. The Earl of Knitting yelled "Touché!" The Chevalier replied, "No-Crochet!" Thus, the idea for the art was born.

The maidens who had witnessed the battle quickly ran back to their chambers and began to tell the tale of the event they had witnessed. They took a small hook (representing the bent foil) and began to quickly thrust and pull the hook (mimicking the swift movement of the Lords' foils during the battle) through fancy threads (representing the Lord's tunics) to make a faux chain mail garment (demonstrating how the young Lord was saved by the light armor). The public marveled at the fancy garments created by the process. When asked what it was called, the maidens shouted, "Crochet!"

And, so began the art that would forever rival knitting.

The End

April Classes

Heels and Toes Tuesdays, April 1-22 7PM-9PM Here's a class for those who are having trouble with socks-or for those who want to learn how. We'll work exclusively on turning the heels, knitting the foot, and making the toe. The cuff and leg will be machine knit, and ready for you to begin turning the heel. The class fee is \$125 and includes the knitted cuff and legs, yarn, and needles. Students MUST sign up in advance.

Beginning Spinning Wednesdays April 2-23 7PM-9PM You've seen the wheels in the shop-here's your chance to learn how to use one. You'll be making your own yarn in no time! The class fee is \$140 and includes the fiber, instruction, and use of the wheel in the shop. Class is limited to 4 students.

There will not be any Thursday classes in April.

Please Note:

We will be closed April 18-21 for the Easter Holiday.

Tickets for the 2015 Winter Retreat are Available

Our 2015 retreat will again be at the Willowood Inn in Baraboo Wisconsin. The dates are January 23-25. The prices are as follows:

\$125/person double occupancy if paid by April 1, 2015

\$175/person single occupancy if paid by April 1, 2015

Your payment is due at the time of your reservation. We must pay for the Inn in advance, so all reservations are NOT refundable. Please make your payment by cash or check only. Since this is a "bare bones" price, we do not accept credit cards for reservation payment. Space is limited to 30 attendees, and to date only 24 spaces remain.

The price includes Friday night dinner, 2 nights of lodging, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday lunch and Saturday night will again be "pot luck". We'll let you know which meal to bring a dish for. All rooms have refrigerators, private bathrooms, outside entrance, separate heat controls, and are located on the main level. Parking spaces are provided right outside your door. The common room is well lit, warm, and has a beautiful view of the Baraboo Hills. Contact Penny at the shop to make your reservations.