

# 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**

September 2013

## **A "Little" Crazy Helps**

*Penny and I have been doing "double duty" for about 10 years. We both work day jobs-then run the shop on evenings and weekends. When asked how we can manage it, the answer is simple-being a little crazy helps.*

*Over the years, the shop has taken on a life of its' own. It has become the home base for the community of artists we happily call our customers. It's not about the yarn, tools, or other materials. It's all about the people. As a business, we hope for the best. The last few years have been difficult, but at least for now we continue to ride out the economic storm. What the future holds is anybody's guess.*

*This year at TNNA we noticed a big drop in shops attending the show, as well as a smaller number of suppliers. My guess is that the number of local yarn shops open today is about half of what it was a few years ago. Like all small businesses, local government tax levies are squeezing us as well. New taxes on electric, gas, telephone services, as well as increased village, local government, and school taxes, and ever increasing water rates have us beginning the search for a less costly location. We cannot subsidize the shop expenses with the income we earn from our day jobs.*

*Some people say we are crazy for having the shop. I'll agree, that a "little" crazy helps-but it's our friends and customers that keep us going. Our role in the shop is that of a steward. We choose the inventory, invest the money, and manage the day-to-day operations. God takes care of the rest. After all, He owns everything.*

*The shop is not what we envisioned. God has made it the place He designed it to be. We just work there. So, the next time you pick up a needle or hook, or hold some fiber to spin-thank God that He has provided you a local yarn shop to patronize, and pray for its' safe keeping and success. After all, it's not about the yarn; it's about the people He calls through the door.*

## **October Classes**

**Felted Vest** Tuesdays 10/1 – 10/29 7-9 PM Here is a take-off on our popular Felted Jacket class. Forget the sleeves-we're doing a felted vest! This project is knit with bulky yarn on big needles and then felted down to size. This is a 5 week class, so you'll have plenty of time to finish your project (Just in time for the cool weather). Yarn for this project will need to be ordered, so sign up early and choose your colors. The class fee is \$60, and does not include the pattern, yarn, or needles. The class is limited to four students.

**Advanced Spinning II** Wednesdays 10/2 -10/23 7-9PM So you know how to spin, how to set your wheel for different ratios-now what? Designer Yarn! This class will cover some of the newest techniques to create designer yarns, including cabled, thick-thin, and wrapped styles. You'll need your wheel in working order, fiber, locks, yarns, and a bit of creativity. You'll be amazed at what you can do. The class fee is \$60. Students should have a variety of fiber, some handspun singles, and a working wheel. The class is limited to four students.

**Basic Knitting** Thursdays 10/3-10/24 7-9 PM So you want to knit but think you can't. Here's news-you can, and we can help. This class covers the basics (cast on, knit, purl, bind off). There isn't anything you can't make if you have the basics down. Students will work on their choice of simple projects that will hone these basic skills. Left or right handed doesn't matter (both hands are doing something, anyway!) Here's your chance to jump on the band wagon and knit. The class fee is \$60. Material costs will be determined by the project you select. The class is limited to four students, so sign up today!

***We're Expanding!*** In addition to our yarns and fiber, we will be adding a sampling of quilting fabrics. Shop early for the best selection.

**Please Note:** We will be closed Aug 30-Sept 9 for  
The Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival

## **2014 Winter Retreat Tickets are Available**

The 2014 Winter Retreat will be held January 24-26 at the Willowood Inn located in Baraboo, WI. Tickets are \$125/person double occupancy, or \$175/person single occupancy, and include: 2 nights lodging, dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Tickets must be paid in advance (check or cash only), and are not refundable. This has been one of our most popular events. Please contact Penny to secure your place.

**Mark your Calendar for the  
Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival  
September 6-8**

**At the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Jefferson, Wisconsin**