

STITCHES

1408 West Mountain Ave, Fort Collins, Colorado ♦ (970) 407-1461 ♦ Tues 10am - 8pm ♦ Wed - Sat 10am - 5pm

Welcome to My Sister Knits! We want you to think of us as one of those places you want to visit often. We want you to bring your friends, be inspired and feel comfortable just to sit and knit. We strive to find things we love that you will want to add to your collection. Currently our feeling is natural, more natural, local and more basic.

Over the past six weeks or so we have been renovating to provide more space, light and comfort when you visit. We appreciate your patience with the noise, smells and general disorder during this process. The My Sister Knits team has worked hard to get things back in order for a more pleasing space for all of us. We are loving it and think you will too. Join us in celebrating the end of construction with a grand re-opening on Saturday, April 4th. While putting things in their places we have been sorting out the excess for a 40% off sale for this one day. Come for coffee, tea and cookies, and stay to knit.

As we move from winter into spring we are slowing down a little, looking around at the world around us more and prioritizing. I think this is all good! Prioritizing always makes me think of giving, not only to loved ones but to the greater community as well. What a great skill to be able to do so with handmade items! We continue to collect knitted items appropriate for donation to the Catholic Mission. In addition, we are collecting finished helmet liners for our troops. Military approved patterns are available for free at the shop. Thank you for all you have contributed over the past 4 years, it is much appreciated!

The chicken coop in the backyard attracts admirers of all ages and we will be spiffing it up over the coming weeks. We are proud to have been invited to take part in Tour de Coop 09 on April 18th. This is a bicycle tour of local chicken coops in the City Park and Campus West neighborhoods. Look for an informational poster at the shop or follow the link above. Space is limited so register early to take part!

Keep knitting!

Julie

Inside This Issue...

- * A Glimpse Of the New Ground Floor
- * Upcoming Events
- * Are You A Raveler? Come Join Us!
- * Free Spring One Skein Pattern from Kristi Schueler

Some Spring Projects to Inspire



from Blue Sky Alpacas



from Marie Mayhew



from Marie Mayhew

These projects and many more fun spring-themed ideas are on display throughout the shop with patterns in stock. Be sure to stop in for even more inspiration!

"When times are tough I sit down to spin during the news-broadcasts, with therapeutic results. Knitting, as you well know, is therapy too."

— Elizabeth Zimmermann
in Knitter's Almanac

Upcoming Events

April 2 & 9, 9-10 am - Steeking with Marjorie H. \$25 + supplies

April 4, 10am - 5pm - Grand Re-opening! Enjoy special discounts and goodies while checking out the new space and merchandise!

April 4, 1-3pm - Knitting 101: A lecture from Kathy Hartmeister. \$25 + supplies

April 7 - New class schedule for May-August will be available on the web site.

April 11, 18 & 25, 1-2pm - Fingerless Mitts with Robin S. \$40 + supplies

April 18, 9am-4pm - Tour de Coop 09

April 18, 1-3pm - Drag your Unfinished Objects out of the closet with help from Kathy H.!! \$25 + supplies

Every Tuesday 6:30-8pm - Open Knitting

Every Wednesday 10am-2pm - Free drop-in help from Kathy Hartmeister.

Every Thursday 9am-10am - Free drop-on help on knitting and crochet projects or beginning knitting and crochet from Julie.

More detailed class descriptions are available in the class schedule available online or at the shop.

Peek At the Newly Renovated Space!



A look at the new space downstairs, complete with improved lighting and more seating. As viewed from the register.

The new downstairs space viewed from the "back room."



New Fingering Weight Arrivals!

Many new sock yarns have come in recently. I personally love fingering weight yarn for lots of other things besides socks. It's a great weight to work with as the weather begins to warm.

- **Prism Yarns' Saki** - Beautiful colors in a fingering/sock weight blend of superwash merino and nylon for added durability.
- **Cascade Heritage Sock** - Classic solid colors to show off your beautiful stitch patterns. Also a durable blend of superwash merino and nylon.
- **Done Roving's Frolicking Feet and Tapping Tootsies** - Gorgeous hand dyed yarns from a small fiber mill in Maine.
- **Lonesome Stone's Mountain Feat** - A great sock yarn handpainted in Granby, CO with many variegated colorways to choose from.
- Also just in - **DPN holders**, great for sock knitters and a bargain at only \$2.50 ea! Thanks to Julie C. for this great find!

Spring Frills

An original pattern
by Kristi Schueler of
Designedly, Kristi

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See
Them In
The Shop!

This pattern was licensed for 1 month and is no longer available for free. It can be purchased for \$3 direct from Kristi on her web site at http://blog.designedlykristi.com/?page_id=6 or on Ravelry at <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/spring-frills>

Yarn

Done Roving's Tapping Tootsees, *superwash merino/nylon/bamboo*, 434 yds/100 gm, fingering weight yarn, Citrus Sorbet. 1 hank will make 2 full pairs.

Needles & Notions

US4 (3.5 mm) & US2 (2.75 mm), set of 4 DPNs, or sizes needed to obtain gauges
48 - 6° Seed Beads (optional)
Steel 13 Crochet Hook (optional, only needed if using beads)
Tapestry Needle
Stitch Markers (optional)

Gauge

30 sts per 4" on larger needles and 34 sts per 4" in St st knit in the round on smaller needles

Size

Finished circumference of wrist unstretched equals 5" (12.5 cm) and stretches to 10" (25.5 cm).

Special Instructions

Abbreviations used follow the standards at <http://yarn-standards.com/knit.html>, some less familiar abbreviations follow.

MB - make bobble; k1 p1 k1 in one st, turn work, p3, turn work, k3, slip 2nd st on right needle over first st, repeat with the third bobble stitch so 1 bobble stitch remains

PB - place bead; k1, pass stitch back to left needle as if to purl, place bead on the steel crochet hook, pick up stitch just worked and slipped to left needle with the crochet hook and pull through the bead, replace stitch onto right needle

sk2p - slip one as if to purl, knit 2 stitches together, pass slipped stitch over the stitch just made; two stitches decreased

Are You On Ravelry?

"Ravelry is a place for knitters, crocheters, designers, spinners, and dyers to keep track of their yarn, tools, and pattern information, and look to others for ideas and inspiration." With 323,477 members as of this writing there is certainly something for everyone to be found on this fiber-centric social networking site. The site is still in the testing phase known as "beta" but the waiting list for an invitation is only about 2-days. Sign up at <http://www.ravelry.com>.

In addition to being able to track your yarn, needle and pattern stashes, there are over 10,000 groups where you can interact with people who share similar fibery and non-fibery interests as you. In fact, you can get an after hours My Sister Knits fix at the shop group. Share your recent stash enhancements from MSK as well as your FOs, or get help or advice.

Still feeling intimidated by Ravelry? We are hoping to offer a class on navigating and using Ravelry as soon as we have the technical aspects ironed out. Watch for more info at the shop so you won't be left out of the Ravelry fun!

New Books On The Shelves!

Sock Innovation by Cookie A - Includes a 50 page intro on sock basics and tips for designing your own followed by 15 sock patterns by the beloved designer.

Japanese Inspired Knits by Marianne Isager - Contains knitted projects, mostly garments, inspired by seasonal Japanese festivals.

The Essential Guide to Color Knitting Techniques by Margaret Radcliffe - Covers everything you need to know about color and knitting, from working with handpainted yarns to stranded knitting and intarsia.



Artist Profile: Kristi Schueler

In this issue we are pleased to introduce knitwear designer and teacher, Kristi Schueler. She self-publishes knitting designs available here at My Sister Knits under the name Designedly, Kristi. Her designs have also been in a variety of Interweave Press magazines, Twist Collective and the new book, *Knitting Socks with Handpainted Yarn*. She teaches knitting and spinning to groups and individuals in Northern Colorado, including here at the shop.

Kristi has had a circuitous path to her current career.

Raised on a dairy farm in west central Minnesota, creativity in daily life was encouraged. Kristi credits her college studies in meteorology for honing valuable skills required of a knitwear designer. These studies also brought her to Fort Collins a decade ago where she met and married her equally supportive and creative husband, Drew. Around the new millennium Kristi found herself reevaluating life and concluding creativity needed a more prominent role. She began teaching personal enrichment classes online in bookbinding, mixed media collage, print-making and color theory.

Kristi had learned a variety of needlework skills as a young girl, but had left those behind upon entering middle school. While seeking new supplies for her art in 2003 she visited a local yarn store. Before leaving she had enrolled in a class to refresh her knitting skills. Not being one to give any less than 100% to any task, she confesses with a chuckle to "rush[ing] home to practice so I would have even tension for my project." Kristi soon was substituting yarns and improvising.

For Kristi, "knitting is much like cooking. Recipes or patterns are just jumping off points." It was only natural to go from making major changes to patterns to designing her own from scratch. Kristi is currently working with several publishers on a variety of upcoming patterns. You can follow her creative pursuits on her blog at <http://blog.designedlykristi.com>.

More New Yarns!

Lonesome Stone Natural Alpaca - natural colored 90% Alpaca, 10% Merino, 3-ply worsted weight, milled in Granby, Colorado!

Brown Sheep Lanaloft Sport - 100% wool, single ply sport weight in a rainbow of colors, milled in Mitchell, Nebraska!

Cascade 220 Superwash - 100% superwash wool, plied worsted weight washable wool, many new colors just arrived, including heathers!

Cascade Soft Spun - 100% single ply bulky weight wool yarn great for felting!