

september ▪ october
2009

A GRAND YARN

fine yarns ▪ patterns ▪ classes

greetings

Dear Friends of A Grand Yarn,

Fall has plenty about it to love: crisp weather, changing leaves, delicious apples, weighty pumpkins, and new school supplies. But if you are a knitter and you include fall's knitting marvelousness—new yarns, cozy sweater projects, cooler temperatures perfect for knitting in—well, you have a season that is simply sublime. That's why here at A Grand Yarn we find ourselves overflowing with excitement about the coming months. We have new classes, a great fall knitalong, and our anniversary celebration, including a customer trunk show. This fall our newsletter focuses on classes starting in September and October only—as opposed to our regular three-month format—to make it a little easier for you to schedule and not have to plan so far ahead. There is a big batch of fun new offerings, such as Side Slip Cloche, Aria Scarf, Fair Isle Legwarmers, and Mr. Greenjeans, to name just a few. Stop by the store anytime to see samples of the class projects. We look forward to seeing you. And in the meantime, we hope you can savor the wonderful early days of autumn. Sit back with a mug of hot cider and your latest project. Happy knitting!

Sincerely,

Mary and the AGY Staff

anniversary celebration

We can hardly believe that the end of September marks our fifth anniversary. One of the best parts over the years has been seeing knitters blossom, tapping into their own skills and creativity to complete some amazing projects. With that in mind, we will be hosting an **AGY Customer Trunk Show**, so all of you can put your talents on display. The trunk show will run September 22-26. If you are interested in placing a project in the trunk show, you may drop off one item beginning September 8. Absolutely all kinds of submissions are welcome. We will ask you to fill out a quick information card including details like the yarn and pattern, since other customers might very well be inspired by you and want to make the exact same project. Also, on Saturday, September 26, we will be having refreshments from 1:00 until closing in celebration of our anniversary and the final day of the trunk show.

AGY Customer Trunk Show: September 22-26

Reception: September 26 – 1:00-5:00

fall knitalong

Our AGY knitalongs continue to be great fun, so we are happy to be launching another one this fall. The project we have selected is the Chic Knits Mondo Cable Sweater. The pattern, which is available for purchase for \$6.50, comes in both a pullover and a cardigan version, and participants can knit whichever one they like. In the pullover version, a big front cable splits at the v-neck. In the cardigan style, there are cables on either side of the opening and a turned collar. Both are worked from the top down, so there is hardly any finishing. As with previous knitalongs, this is a free gathering. It's not a class, per se, but staff members will be available to help if need be. Participants who attend the final meeting with a completely finished sweater will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate. This season's KAL will launch September 19 and will finish up mid-November. If you would like to participate, just ask one of our staff members for a supply list. We hope you can join us.

Free Mondo Cable Sweater KAL

Saturdays: 9/19, 10/10, 10/24, 11/14 – 3:00-5:00

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classes at a grand yarn

Registration: Class registration begins immediately on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-payment is required with registration to secure your spot in the class. You can register in person or over the phone. Supplies are not included in the class fee.

Cancellations: You may cancel up to one week before the first class for a full refund. If you cancel later than that, we will issue a refund if we are able to fill your space. You can transfer class fees to apply to another class within the same semester if you still let us know a week prior to the original class. If a class does not fill with the minimum students, we will cancel the class and issue a full refund.

Student Discounts: Students receive a non-transferable, one-time 10% storewide discount card at the time of registration. The discount is valid through the last day of class. The AGY Club discount can be applied on top of the class discount. You will need to present your discount card at the time of purchase.

Skill Level: Our class descriptions include a skill level to help you choose classes that suit your abilities.

Learn To. You have never picked up needles or you need a refresher of the basics. *Beginner.* You know how to cast on, knit, purl, and bind off. *Advanced Beginner.* You are comfortable with knitting, purling, and binding off. Some experience with shaping. *Intermediate.* You have completed many projects, can read most patterns, and are ready for more challenging projects.

Private Lessons: If you can't make one of the class times, there is a specific skill or project you want to learn, or you work better one-on-one, consider making an appointment for a private lesson. Our teachers are available for lessons on any skill or project you have in mind. Lessons are \$25 per hour for one person or \$35 per hour for two people.

Special Group Classes: Ask us about possibilities of arranging your own group for a specific class.

getting started

BEGINNING KNITTING: SCARF AND HAT *Fee: \$65*
with Gerda Porter

If you want to become a knitter, this is an excellent place to start. This comprehensive class will help you learn to cast on, knit, purl, increase, decrease, cast off, and read patterns. Over the course of the class, you will work on a scarf and a hat. You can even make yourself a matching set! (Skill Level: Learn To. 4 sessions. Maximum 6 students.)

Wednesdays: 9/16, 9/23, 10/7, 10/14 – 5:30-7:30

Saturdays: 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/24 – 10:30-12:30

suit yourself

In this new knitting-circle-style class taught by Gerda Porter, students have the option of knitting absolutely anything they want. You can select a project you would to launch but are a little wary of doing on your own. Or you can pick something you are already working on but need help finishing. The idea is to get the class experience—receiving help from a skilled teacher, getting to know other knitters, encouraging your classmates, and ultimately achieving project success—but with projects of your own choosing. Think of it as the Build-Your-Own-Class Class. (6 sessions. Maximum 6 students.)

Thursdays: 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29 – 5:30-7:30

Fee: \$57

join the club

STITCH CLUB with Leslie Huppin

In this popular workshop, Leslie teaches a single stitch pattern that you can add to your repertoire. Each session, you will receive a handout that details the stitch pattern, gives use suggestions, and provides a spot where you can attach your own stitch swatch. Students may start the Stitch Club at any session. (Skill Level: Beginner and Up. 1 session.)

Fee: \$18 for the first session (includes stitch notebook and yarn), \$7.50 each session thereafter

Tuesdays: 9/15, 9/29, 10/6, 10/20 – 12:30-1:30

Tuesdays: 9/15, 9/29, 10/6, 10/20 – 5:30-6:30

SOCK CLUB with Kathleen Cubley *Fee: \$7.50*

In this fun club, each month there is a new featured pattern and a secret sock yarn, a yarn that the Clubbers are the first to see in the store. Sock Clubbers will have the option to purchase the featured yarn for 15% off that night only. During the gathering, Kathleen will provide a pattern and handout and will take you through tips and tricks for success with the sock. September's sock will be a Fair Isle Christmas stocking knit out of a heavier yarn. Please note that this class is for those who have completed at least one pair of socks. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. \$7.50 per session.)

Wednesdays: 9/30, 10/28 – 6:00-7:00

technique tuesdays

OOPS! with Gerda Porter

Tuesday: 9/22 – 3:00-5:00

Fee: \$25

Don't let a mistake derail your project! In this immensely helpful class, Gerda will teach you how to correct your mistakes so that one little goof doesn't mean you have to rip out the whole thing. These are invaluable skills to have that will save you a lot of time and frustration in your knitting. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

COPIOUS CAST ONS with Mary Perry **NEW!**

Tuesday: 10/13 – 12:30-2:30

Fee: \$25

Often times when you first begin to knit you learn one cast on and you stick with that one time and time again. While a single cast on can be versatile, there are definitely many more options out there with different characteristics and applications. In this class, Mary will teach you a handful of useful cast on's so that you will know the perfect one for a particular project. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

PICKING FOR THROWERS with Gerda Porter

Tuesday: 9/22 – 12:30-2:30

Fee: \$25

Are you a picker or a thrower? Pickers, or Continental knitters, carry the yarn in their left hand, while throwers wrap with their right. Many feel that picking is faster and easier on your hands than throwing. If you are already a thrower but would like to try changing to a picker, this class is a great place to begin. Gerda will help you make the switch. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

INCREASE YOUR INCREASES (AND DECREASES!)

with Mary Perry **NEW!**

Tuesday: 10/27 – 12:30-2:30

Fee: \$25

Shaping is essential for countless knitting projects. In this class, Mary will guide you through a variety of different increases and decreases, teaching you which ones work best in which situations. If you want visible, fashion shaping, there are increases and decreases for that. And if invisibility is your goal, there are options for that as well. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

toppers

SIDE SLIP CLOCHE with Mary Lindeblad **NEW!**

Friday: 9/25 – 12:30-2:30

Fee: \$25

In this class, Mary will teach you how to knit the stylish hat from the cover of *Boutique Knits*. The unique design features a ribbed band with a side ruffle detail and the crown picked up from the side of the band. This hat is adorable on everyone, and it's lovely to knit. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

SIDEWAYS GRANDE HAT with Mary Lindeblad **NEW!**

Friday: 10/2 – 12:30-2:30

Fee: \$25

The hat in this class is also from the popular book *Boutique Knits*. The main body of the hat is knit flat in a ribbed pattern from side to side using three different size needles to create some shape. It's finished off with a braided piece applied to the side. In this class, Mary will show you how to knit this interesting and fun project. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

URCHIN HAT with Kathleen Cublely **NEW!**

Thursday: 10/22 – 3:00-5:00

Fee: \$25

Join Kathleen as you learn to knit this fun and funky hat from Knitty. Made up of garter stitch wedges shaped with shortrows., the project calls for chunky yarn, so it knits up in a flash. This is a fantastic quick and easy gift option. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

TRETTA HAT with Leslie Huppin **NEW!**

Tuesdays: 10/27 & 11/3 – 3:00-5:00

Fee: \$35

This new hat from the designer of the popular Odessa Hat features a unique leaf ribbing design and only 30 beads (so you get the elegant touch of beads without having to push around a ton of them). In this class, Leslie will teach you how to knit this lovely accessory, including how to insert a bead with the slip stitch method. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 2 sessions. Maximum 8 students.)

for the feet

KNITTED LOAFERS with Leslie Huppin

Tuesday: 10/20 – 2:00-4:00

Fee: \$25

These Coco Knits slippers have been a huge hit at AGY, and Leslie has become a veritable loafer-knitting machine. Join her as you learn to use shortrow shaping and knitting in the round on two circulars to make these great loafers. You will also learn some whimsical embellishment options like a puff flower and a penny loafer design. Some homework required prior to class. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

KNIT YOUR FIRST SOCKS with Gerda Porter

Fridays: 9/18, 10/2, 10/16 – 3:00-5:00

Fee: \$50

Socks are great projects to work on: they're small, portable, and fun. If you have been wanting to learn how to knit socks, this is a great place to start. In this class, Gerda will teach you how to knit socks in the traditional way from the cuff down. Students will have the option of knitting on double-points or on one long circular using the Magid Loop method. You just might get hooked! (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 3 sessions. Maximum 8 students.)

scarves and wraps

GUEST TEACHER: INGRID FINSTUEN

This season Ingrid will be visiting and teaching the first few scarves in a series of classes on *Knitting New Scarves*, a great book of modern, innovative scarf designs.

FLAPPER SCARF NEW!

Friday: 9/18 – 10:30-11:30

Fee: \$15

It's amazing what two colors, some double-points, and three-needle joins can do when they come together. This super-simple scarf has contrasting color flaps attached to the main color body, and the result is truly unique. Join Ingrid for this one-hour class that will set you on your way with your own fabulous Flapper. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

ARIA SCARF NEW!

Saturday: 9/19 – 10:30-12:30

Fee: \$25

Take your basic garter scarf, two strands of yarn, and some shortrow shaping, and you have the stunning Aria Scarf. The garter center is trimmed with beautiful side ruffles that you knit as you go, and after a few repeats, you don't even have to look at the pattern. Aria is a joy to knit and has elegant results. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

SHAG SCARF NEW!

Friday: 10/16 – 11:30-12:30

Fee: \$25

This dramatic scarf features triangles that flutter off of the main body. Worked entirely in garter stitch, the project looks like it would give you lots of ends to weave in, but it's actually made with one continuous strand. Join Ingrid as you learn the ins and outs of this pattern. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

SUGAR MAPLE SHAWL with Mary Lindeblad **NEW!**

Thursdays: 9/17 & 10/1 – 10:30-12:30

Fee: \$35

Thursdays: 10/22 & 11/5 – 10:30-12:30

During the first session of this class, you will learn how to knit the basic leaf lace motif of the main body of this lovely wrap from Tree Knitter Designs. In the second session, you will learn how to pick up the ruffle and eyelet trim. The project is knit with a chunky yarn, so it goes surprisingly fast for a lace project. Mary said she had more fun knitting this project than any other she's knit in a long time (and she knits a lot!). (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 2 sessions. Maximum 8 students.)

SLANTED STRIPES SCARF with Kathleen Cubley **NEW!**

Thursday: 9/17 – 3:00-4:00

Fee: \$15

Thursday: 10/15 – 3:00-4:00

Join Kathleen for this One Hour Wonder in which you will learn how to use two shades of Noro Silk Garden and simple garter stitch to achieve some incredible results. With some basic increasing and decreasing, the beautiful colors will come out on the diagonal. This one is so fun and easy to knit, and it makes a great gift for men or women. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

GRAPEVINE LACE SCARF with Leslie Huppin **NEW!**

Tuesday: 10/6 – 2:00-5:00

Fee: \$30

Leslie has become a big fan of the beautiful lace designs from Knitspot. In this class, she will teach you how to knit a vine-like lace pattern that is classic and feminine. If you are falling in love with the look of lace, this is a great class for you. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

fabulous felting

SNUGLETS WORKSHOP with Ingrid Finstuen NEW!

Saturday: 10/17 – 9:30-12:30 *Fee: \$30*

These adorable little felted booties from Pick Up Sticks have basic pieces that are easy to knit, but the tricky part comes when you knit the inside and outside together and when you knit the sole. In this workshop, Ingrid will teach you how to navigate the finishing details successfully so that by the end of class you will practically be ready to felt. You will also learn how to knit darling embellishments to top these little guys. Please note some homework required prior to class. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

ARTFELT WORKSHOP with Leslie Huppin NEW!

Saturday: 10/17 – 3:00-5:00 *Fee: \$60*

In this great workshop, Leslie will teach you how to felt the Artfelt way, which involves a special felting paper, felting needles, and your own creativity. You will make your own felted designs on the paper, which you can then felt at home. The piece can be made into a fun little project itself (like a coin purse or gadget bag), or it can be used to adorn another project. Fee includes complete supply kit. (Skill Level: Any! 1 sessions Maximum 8 students.)

sweaters

MR. GREENJEANS with Pat Nerbun NEW! *Fee: \$70*

Saturdays: 9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, 11/21 – 12:30-2:30

Mr. Greenjeans is a fantastically popular sweater from Knitty. And with good reason. A flattering shape, elegant but simple cables, and top-down construction make this project a definite winner, perhaps even one you will want to make multiples of after you see how great your first one is. Join Pat as you learn to knit what is sure to be a fall and winter wardrobe staple. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 5 sessions. Maximum 8 students.)

BLACKSTONE TWEED CARDI with Gerda Porter NEW!

Wednesdays: 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/11 – 3:00-5:00
Fee: \$65

In this class, you will learn how to knit a lovely Blackstone Tweed cardigan from the Berroco Design Team (it's actually called Nonpareil, but, honestly, how many of us can pronounce that correctly?). The unusual design begins with the central band, and the tops and bottoms are picked up and knit with that. With twisted stitch detailing and a decidedly cozy-but-sophisticated look, you will love wearing this sweater and love being able to say you knit it. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 4 sessions. Maximum 8 students.)

fun with fair isle

FT FAIR ISLE HAT with Gerda Porter NEW!

Wednesday: 10/21 – 11:30-2:30 *Fee: \$30*

In Gerda's version of this Fiber Trends hat, she used Noro yarn as the contrasting color in the Fair Isle design, so colorful swirl motifs subtly stripe against the solid main color. The result is wonderful. In this class, you will learn how to work Fair Isle patterns with two hands. You will become comfortable with using the colorwork chart, and you will end up with a truly tremendous hat. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

FAIR ISLE LEGWARMERS with Gerda Porter NEW!

Wednesday: 10/28 – 12:30-3:30 *Fee: \$30*

Legwarmers are popular again, and these Fair Isle versions knit out of the vibrant Spud & Chloe Fine make a big and bright statement. Join Gerda as you learn to knit the colorwork chart, which includes diamond and vine motifs. Jane Fonda never wore anything this fabulous. (Skill Level: Intermediate. 1 session. Maximum 8 students.)

BABY BOY SWEATER with Gerda Porter NEW!

Wednesdays: 9/23, 10/7, 10/14 – 12:30-2:30 *Fee: \$50*

If you need an extra special baby gift, or if you want to try your hand at a cabled sweater on a small scale, this is the class for you. Gerda will guide you through this lovely traditional cabled sweater pattern from Sirdar. This class is the perfect way to boost your sweater knitting confidence and make an heirloom-worthy gift at the same time. And if the boy in mind won't be a baby much longer, don't worry: the pattern goes up to a size 7. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 3 sessions. Maximum 8 students.)

SUBLIME SWEATER PROJECT PLUNGE: PARTS 2 & 3

with Mary Lindeblad

Thursdays: 9/24 & 10/8 – 1:00-3:00 *Fee: \$25*

This summer Mary taught the first part of this Project Plunge in which students got started on a simple stylish sweater from Sublime. In these optional follow-up sessions, she will take students through the finishing touches, including assembly and the button band. Attendance of the first session is not required. (Skill Level: Advanced Beginner and Up. 2 sessions. Maximum 8 students.)



**free weekly
knitting
groups**

**Good Morning
Knitting
Tuesdays from
10:30 to 12:00**

...

**Saturday Stitches
Saturdays from
3:00 to 5:00**

garter stitch wonders

Sometimes when knitters learn to purl and see the magic knits and purls can achieve together, good old garter stitch becomes the Velveteen Rabbit of stitch patterns, lonely and forgotten. Well, this season we want to bring garter stitch to life and prove that garter stitch doesn't have to be boring. Among our classes this fall are several projects that really show how great garter can be: **Shag Scarf**, **Flapper Scarf**, **Aria Scarf**, **Urchin Hat**, and **Slanted Stripes Scarf**.

Also, when Mary and Ingrid attended TNNA's fall market over the summer, they were inspired by the simplest of projects worn by Annie Adams, an artist who creates lovely pewter shawl pins. With just a rectangle of garter stitch, she created a surprisingly sophisticated little asymmetrical capelet. Mary is finishing one up now, so stop in and see. Here's the pattern:

ANNIE ADAMS CAPELET

- Yarn:** Approximately 700-900 yards of worsted weight yarn. Variegated or hand-dyed yarns work wonderfully. We recommend Classic Elite Waterlily, Queensland Rustic, Cascade 220 Handpaints, Dream in Color Classy, Lorna's Laces Green Line Worsted, Noro Kureyon. (You can also use other weights of yarn. Just change needle size and cast-on number accordingly.)
- Needles:** Size 7 or 8, depending on your personal knitting style and how tight you want the fabric.
- Instructions:** Cast on 82 stitches, or number to achieve approximately 18 inches. Knit in garter stitch for 40 inches. Bind off loosely. Weave in ends and block. Drape finished piece around shoulders, folding back the top like a shawl collar, and secure the ends off toward one shoulder with a shawl pin.



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