

"From the Heart"

Volunteers are angels in disguise.



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From the Heart's

April 2013

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As the need for winter hats and scarves draws to a close, we need to make space on our shelves for spring and summer fibers of acrylic, cotton and cotton blend yarns for those nice, soft chemo hats, blankets and baby items we all love to stitch. With this need in mind, for the next 7 or 8 months, we are having an in-house event...a...

"Wool Explosion"!

You may have already seen the evidence at the shop. We've posted signs everywhere! If you haven't been by lately, let me tell you about it. We are emptying out shelves and cubbies in preparation for stocking our warm weather fibers. And the "Explosion" part...that's where you come in. We are attempting to group together 100% wool suitable for felting. We are gathering all our Lionbrand Wool-ease and similar yarns in one location and also placing stacks of other beautiful skeins in areas for you to browse...all in hopes of, not only making space for current needs, but we think just maybe you might like to offer a \$\$ donation for some of these beautiful yarns and get a jump start on

your stitching for the 2013 holiday season! If you are anything like me, you always have wonderful gift ideas but they all come to you a few days before the actual date they need to be completed! This year let's remedy that problem. And don't forget all the books and patterns on our shelves for inspiration. Sometimes it works best to scan the patterns, pick your favorite then head to the yarn shelves. But then again, sometimes the yarn will just beg to be chosen and then you look to the library shelves for that perfect pattern.

Of course, most of our wool and wool blends will be stored for our next cool season stitching. With our nice storage closet this is never a problem. But this year we just want to get you into the act with our spring cleaning by offering some of our stock to you. And...one of the real reasons for this...we could use the funds brought in by this 'clearing out' to purchase yarns necessary to get us through our next stitching season.

Our yarn shuffle is now in progress and will continue for a few weeks. If you have the time, please check by the shop often to see what's on display. Hope to see you there!

Lois

Upcoming Workshops

There has been considerable interest in the workshops we have been offering on alternating Saturdays at the From the Heart shop on Westbriar Drive. So much so that we continue to ask that you register in advance if you want to attend a workshop. Because of the limited space, number of teachers, and Fire Department regulations, we need to limit the number of attendees and really don't want to have to turn people away at the door so it is important that you let us know in advance if you would like to attend. We have also started to maintain wait-lists of people who are interested but whom we simply cannot fit in on specific days so that we know which workshops we should offer again and whom to contact in the event a space does open up.

The workshops we have planned are:

Saturday March 30th Ann Hald will be hosting a workshop on knitting toe-up socks on a circular needle. This class is also full but, again, we are maintaining a wait-list.

On April 6th, Tricia Ennis will be teaching how to "Knit an Entrelac Scarf". Full but a wait list is also developing.

Saturday April 13th, "Beginning to Knit" with Lois Moore - NEW

Saturday May 11th, "Sweet Tomato Heel" - NEW (a technique developed by Cat Bordhi). A different and new way to turn the heel of a sock.

We are also interested in knowing what you would like to see us offer so don't be shy about enquiring.

Just a note: Saturday shopkeepers do not need to stay when a workshop is held as the instructor(s) take on the responsibility of closing up the shop at 4pm.

Contact Tricia Ennis if you have questions at (804) 683-9015 or ennis1000@verizon.net.

Schedulers Urgently Needed

VOLUNTEERS GREATLY NEEDED TO HELP WITH SHOPKEEPING SCHEDULING.

From the Heart currently has 4 ladies working on the shopkeeping scheduling. These ladies coordinate shopkeeping hours with our wonderful shopkeepers. With YOUR help, this would allow the scheduling rotation to be spread out more. It is NOT a difficult job, but it must be done. Won't you give it a try?!? Contact any one of the current schedulers for more information. Thank you for considering this opportunity with From the Heart.

Gail Patrick ragland@aol.com
Tricia Ennis ennis1000@verizon.net
Eleanor Cannon e-cannon@msn.com
Ann Robbins aerobbins@live.com

8th Annual From the Heart Retreat - Update

In order to keep everyone aware and excited about the Retreat this year, we are keeping you updated in the Newsletter every month. This month, we are asking for volunteers to help with Bingo, our planned classes for knitting and/or crocheting flowers and we also need a couple more 'models' for our Fashion Show.

The mini-classes and workshop currently are:

- How to Knit with Beads
- How to Embellish Glove Cuffs to be High Fashion
- Seaming Methods
- Crocheting Flowers to Embellish your Work
- Knitting Flowers to Embellish your Work

We also have the following vendors lined up:

- Flint Hill Mini Farm
- Coordinated Colors Yarn Shoppe (accessories)
- The Yarn Barn (yarns)
- Nana's Homemades (gourmet hand crafted jams, jellies, chutneys...)
- Williamsburg Chocolatier (YAY - chocolate)
- TCM Creative Solutions (gift cards with a knitting/crochet flair)

Please contact Tricia Ennis at ennis1000@verizon.net if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions and/or suggestions about the Retreat.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY
AUGUST 24TH, 2013**

Volunteer Needs 2013 From the Heart Retreat

As you all know by now, our 2013 From the Heart "One Stitch at a Time" Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, August 24th at The Place at Innsbrook. Plans are going extremely well for the Retreat and we are now at the point where we need to request volunteers.

Currently, we are looking for help with the following:

- Models for our Fashion Show Extravaganza - and, no, you don't have to look like Liz Hurley. You might actually end up modeling a blanket
- Volunteers to call Bingo
- Volunteers to teach knitting and/or crochet classes in Flower Making

Contact Tricia Ennis (804)683-9015 or ennis1000@verizon.net if you can help or if you have questions.

Current Needs

We currently need blankets, chemo hats in cotton and shawls. As always, please make whatever you enjoy as we can use anything you make.

From the Heart Donation Policy

Recently, a question arose with regard to whether or not From the Heart members should be permitted to take items they want from the shop for 'non-need' people. The issue was discussed by the Board on Sunday and it was decided that a policy was needed to deal with this.

The main thought, with which all Board members agreed, was that when members make an item it is generally assumed and desired by them that the item be eventually delivered to somebody 'in need'. Given this, it was reiterated that ALL items that come into the shop for donation should be tagged and put into the bins in the back. Obviously, there have been situations where one member has specifically asked another to make a specific item *in order* that a monetary donation be given to FTH. There is also a shelf to the right as you go into the yarn storage area on which there are both yarns and completed items which are intended to go to members who then give a monetary donation to FTH for them. This shelf is clearly marked. These items are excluded from the 'must be tagged and binned' policy.

In other words, the From the Heart Policy is that, unless agreed to by the maker of the item, everything that comes into the shop should be tagged, binned, and ultimately donated.

More Spring Clearing Efforts...(great ideas for summer stitching)

We have so much space being given over to yarn of unknown fibers. That would be those you see on the shelves without labels. We are pulling them, again making space for summer yarns, and placing them in containers for you to browse. Items made from these skeins will need to be marked as **WOOL** since we are uncertain of the content in some of them. And all fibers may be mixed together on these projects.

Ideas as to just what to make with them??? Well... we have 6 or 7 locations we have hardly ever helped in the past who desperately need blankets and these can certainly contain wool. We need your help in assembling large numbers of warm blankets for their use in the cooler months. We are making space in our storage room to house these until our next cool season and really need help in collecting as many as possible before the requests start coming in.

Some ideas as to how to accomplish this would be to gather your supplies, just put together your favorite colors...or we can help you choose those that look nice together...get your project started (and this doesn't have to be a whole blanket, squares or even adult hats would be wonderful!), get your stitches going and just work on it between other projects or anytime you have a chance to just add another row! This could be a wonderful change of pace for you. When you aren't quite sure what you want to start next just work on your wool blend project until your next idea comes.

We've been collecting this type of yarn for a very long time, never knowing just what to do with it. So much of it has come in as leftovers with no idea of its content. We want to thank Sandy for the inspiration on this new endeavor. She has gotten us all excited to finally have a solution! Now we are asking for your help. Sometimes folks come in to our shop and see just how much yarn we appear to have but in reality so much of this just sits unused. Now we have a plan in place! Now we can finally put these previously unloved skeins to good use. With your help we will create an enormous number of new smiles, clear our shelves and feel so good about what we are accomplishing!

I know there may be some concern regarding stitching with wool in the hot summer months. But, it appears to me that not many of us are stitching outside...most of our work is done inside in air condition temperatures. Some areas are kept so cool in hot months we just might appreciate a little warmth from our project! Again, we are excited about finally having a plan for all our leftovers and unknowns. To be able to put them to good use will truly make a difference for all of us!

An afterthought...check out the fancy and fun fur areas as well. That stuff seems to multiple overnight when we turn out the lights! Grab a few skeins from the cubbies and include in your project. This type of yarn certainly adds some **zing** to everything!

Back By Popular Demand

We have reordered our original red book, "From the Heart, A Heck of a Good Yarn". As you will remember, it is the tale of the beginnings of From the Heart and includes many pictures and stories of and by our members as well as a number of their patterns.

It is now available.

Summerhill Retirement Community Group

The ladies of the Summerhill Retirement Community in Bon Air do not meet in November or December and when Ann Hald, their contact with

From the Heart, arrived for her pickup in February, look at what she found!!!! 4 blankets, 12 scarves, 2 hat, mitten and scarf sets AND 37 hats!!! Way to go ladies!!!!
THANK YOU!!



Powhatan Festival of Fiber

The Powhatan Festival of Fiber on Saturday April 27 still needs volunteers to help with all sorts of things during a two hour shift. Areas they will need help in are:

- Door Prizes
- Kids Tent
- Demos
- Shearing
- Ticketing
- T-shirts
- Meet Up Tent
- Animals (Contact Runner)

Admission is free for those volunteering. Check out the website for more information on the festival.

<http://www.powhatansfestivaloffiber.com/>

Stop by the Shop

When is the last time you sat, stitched and enjoyed the camaraderie at the shop?

Gail Patrick is the April scheduler. Contact her at ragslan@aol.com or (804) 598-2317 or (804)347-9747.

Beth Williamson is the March winner of the Shopkeeping Prize award!

Thank you, Beth, for all your help. A beautiful bag of yarn is waiting for you at the shop on your next visit. We hope you will enjoy making a special something with it.

Donation Inventory Number

The inventory numbers will return next month.

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