



SPRING  
2020

*“In the universe, there are things that are  
known, and things that are unknown,  
and in between them there are doors.”*

– WILLIAM BLAKE

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OPEN SUNDAY–SATURDAY 10–6. CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY.

a quick  
NOTE

When is it spring? Always a conundrum in our Northwest world—especially when we’re writing a newsletter that won’t be in print for several weeks! When you read this, will we still be shivering, damp, and wanting woollies? Or will we be out basking in the newly revealed sunshine, knitting on the porch? Or will we just be aching for something new to happen?

Spring reminds me of what a counselor once described to us as “liminal space” (from the Latin root *limen* or ‘threshold’). He likened it to the space where the waves lap, not quite in the water, not quite on the shore (an apt island metaphor). And while he recommended we allow ourselves to relax into the uncertainty, he reassured us that if it was uncomfortable, we were doing it right!

And here we are, in 2020, crossing a threshold into our 20th year (with tremendous gratitude, I might add), entering what Nancy Levin calls “the space between no longer and not yet.”

As we head towards our anniversary on September 9th (any ideas for celebrating?), a remarkable milestone in the lifecycle of a small business, we have an opportunity to refresh, to reboot, to rethink the changing landscape that is retail. Every day is an opportunity to reinvent ourselves in the constantly repeating helical cycles from start-up to stuck.

Some projects on the bench for this

year ahead: refresh the shop (a new paint color?); review our offerings (what do you love the most?); launch a blog (so you can get to know our talented team); revisit our favorite patterns (with new yarns, new features, added sizes)...

We are, at heart, traditionalists, loving the best that the past has to offer—ancient sheep breeds, centuries old knitting techniques, Brown Betty teapots—while also committed to stepping lively into the future, with its exponential complexities. We are a team who range in age from teens to seventies (and every decade in between) with ample wisdom and forward vision across the board.



This spring, we’re excited to launch five new *Churchmouse Classics* patterns (see page 6) that each cast a glance back to familiar favorites with new interpretations. You’ll see we’ve embraced the quiet color palette of our island shoreline, its bright and dark waters, infinitely varied stones, driftwood, moss, and seaweed.

We’re so grateful to spring into this next phase with you.

*Kit*

Kit Hutchin

P.S. So many of you have told us that you still love getting—and saving—our old-fashioned snail-mail missives. Just don’t miss our website and emails to keep up with what’s arriving and what’s changing in the months in between.

thinking  
SPRING



Though winter lingers, we know summer will come—so we prepare. We knit lightweight, layerable pieces, adding cotton and linen to the mix. We lovingly launder and tuck our woollies into cloth-coated boxes. And we await spring with—if not

patience—hope and a good cup of tea! For early mornings or ten-minute tea breaks, the *ForLife Curve Tea Cup* makes tea a snap. A fine the generous, lidded leaves in; pour; rest;



remove; sip! The

eco-preferable *Natural Mesh Bag* from *Cocoknits* protects wound skeins from tangles and snags while acting as a sort of soft, take-along yarn bowl. Spanning the gap between winter bulk and summer sleek, a transeasonal

blend like *Rowan's* new *Island Blend Fine*—

a supple mix of Falkland fine merino, baby alpaca, and silk—is perfect for changeable weather. Check in with us all season long to see what's on our needles next!



# monthly OFFERS

This March, the **Featured Faves** connect our small, drizzly island to another much larger island—Japan! Enjoy **10% off** soft, subtle *Shibui Pebble* yarn, fiber-protecting *Aomori Hiba Wood*, and *SA Organic Green Teas* (see on page 14).



We could wax lyrical about any member of *Shibui Knits'* elegant, cohesive collection of yarns, but let's focus on one... for now.

A Portland-based company launched with Japanese inspiration, *Shibui* has *Pebble* spun at a mill in Japan. **10% off** this March, *Pebble* is a lace-weight blend of recycled silk, merino wool, and cashmere. Its rustic look and cashmere touch soothe our fingers and feed our tweed-loving souls.

*Pebble* easily doubles (see cowl, page 5) and triples, and combines splendidly with other *Shibui* yarns. Mute the tweedy flecks with lustrous, fluffy *Silk Cloud*. Or boost them with crisp, yet supple, *Twig!*

Store and protect your woolens with the *Aomori Hiba Wood Products*—all **10% off** in March. Tuck sachets of aromatic wood shavings (discouraging mold and pests) in your stash and use an essential oil to refresh them. A raw log slice absorbs odors in the mustiest of places.

A tree native to Aomori, Japan, hiba has been valued and protected for centuries. It's durable, antiseptic, repellent to insects, resistant to water and rot—and its strong, woody scent is so refreshing.

The wood shavings and log slices used in the *Aomori Hiba Wood Products* are collected and made from the excess waste of larger projects using matured hiba trees—after they've reached the venerable age of 250!—making sure each precious piece of wood is used and respected. Tuck a little history in with your woolens.



## KEEP UP WITH 'FEATURED FAVES'

Each month, we peruse our shelves, reach into our tea cupboard, and pick three faves to feature at 10% off. Keep abreast of the changing **Featured Faves** on our website—or sign up for our email list (you can join at the bottom of any web page).

## DOUBLE PEBBLE COWL

*There are few things we like better than Shibui Pebble doubled. Except maybe some marled stripes. Plus, we just like saying “double pebble!”*

**Size:** Approx. 20"/51cm around x 10"/25.5cm deep.

**Yarn:** 2 skeins Shibui *Pebble* (224 yds/205m each) held double; designate Colors A and B. Or approx. 224 yds/205m each of 2 colors of an equivalent lace-weight yarn held double. Shown in *Suit* and *Caffeine*.

**Notions:** US 6 (4mm) 16"/40cm circular needle, or size to obtain gauge. 1 stitch marker. Darning needle to finish.



**Gauge:** Approx. 22 sts = 4"/10cm in stockinette stitch (knit every round) with yarn held double, after blocking.

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*Hold yarn doubled throughout; pull from both ends of center-pull ball when using one color.*

**Cast on:** With Color A held double and using cable cast-on method, cast on 110 stitches. Do not join yet. Row 1: Knit to end. Place marker; join in round, being careful not to twist.

**Striping sequence:** *Note: When removing and adding strands at color changes, leave 8"/20cm tails for weaving in later.*

Solid stripe A: With Color A doubled, knit 16 rounds.

Marl stripe: With one strand *each* of Color A and B held together, knit 18 rounds.

Solid stripe B: With Color B held double, knit 18 rounds.

Solid stripe A: With Color A held double, knit 9 rounds.

Marl stripe: With one strand *each* of Color A and B held together, knit 9 rounds.

Solid stripe B: With Color B held double, knit 9 rounds.

Solid stripe A: With Color A held double, knit 9 rounds.

**Bind off:** Bind off knitwise, matching tension to cast-on edge. *Note: You may need a larger needle.*

**Finishing:** Weave in ends as invisibly as possible on wrong side. Soak for 20 minutes in tepid water with a little no-rinse wool soap. Gently squeeze out as much water as possible and roll in towel to remove more moisture.

Lay flat on blocking board or moisture-safe surface, gently pulling to finished dimensions. Allow to dry thoroughly.

spring 2020  
**CLASSICS**

*Inspired by the pause before the verdant surge of spring, we're releasing five new Churchmouse Classics adhering to the golden rule of Pacific Northwest style—layer, layer, layer! (See Launch Party details, page 15.)*







## EVERYDAY PULLOVER

When we discover a shape we adore, we knit it again and again. Ergo, the ‘*Everyday Pullover*’: a lighter-gauge tribute to our popular ‘*Better-Than-Basic*’!

With the same beloved and timeless silhouette (boxy, relaxed, and easy to customize) updated with sweet edging treatments (add delicate eyelet ribbing or let those edges roll), and new options for sleeve length, this sweater is easy to dress up, dress down, and wear all around.

The ‘*Everyday Pullover*’—open to the wide, wonderful world of DK-weight yarns—is ideal for mercurial springtime in two plant-fiber blends. The tunic-length version (page 6) is effortlessly elegant knit in *Rowan Alpaca Classic*—a strand of cotton netting infused with alpaca fuzz.

For the hip-skimming sweater (shown above) we picked *Rowan Softyak DK*—a bouncy blend of cotton, yak, and nylon—for a laid-back, sweatshirt feel. Both yarns are perfect for these no-longer-winter, not-yet-spring days.

*Leila, a serial ‘Better-Than-Basic’ knitter, is looking forward to knitting a few ‘Everyday Pullovers’. She says, “I think the eyelet ribbing on the collar, hem, and sleeves is a great way to add detail, while keeping a classic vibe.”*

*Anna daydreams about woollier re-yarnings. “There are so many DK-weight options,” she muses, “the possibilities seem endless!” Her first exploratory swatches will be in Brooklyn Tweed Arbor—one of her faves.*



## VINEYARD COWL & BEANIE

Not quite a cable, not really lace, the twisted eyelet stitch pattern (also used on the ‘*Everyday Pullover*’) lends itself nicely to knitting in the round. It’s unquestionably perfect for cowls and beanies! As the gentle, twirling columns ascend up the neck of the tapered cowl and toward the beanie’s exquisitely finished crown, they remind us of grapevines converging in the distance.

We knit the ‘*Vineyard Cowl & Beanie*’ in *Rowan Alpaca Classic*—it brings such a delightful fuzz to the pretty twists of eyelet ribbing. The cotton netting at *Alpaca Classic*’s core, blown through with alpaca fluff, ensures our cute duo will be soft and light. Springtime ready!

*Kit will knit a ‘Vineyard Beanie’ for her niece in the Great White North (where spring is a little further away). She’s swatching with String Dolcetto DK cashmere. Lucky niece!*

*Carolyn adores the teeny twists of the cable-like eyelet ribbing—and absolutely loves how the ‘Vineyard Cowl’ shows them off! She’s got the yarn and color ready to go—Alpaca Classic in ‘Foliage Green.’*



## EASY EYELET PONCHO & WRAP

The softly draping, mesh-like fabric of this poncho and wrap is possibly the simplest lace pattern that exists—it's a one-row repeat with more holes than yarn! It's so easy, we've knit it in yarns of many weights and fiber compositions. Now, in addition to an airy, generously sized wrap, we've seamed up a breezy poncho—a versatile, multi-season layer.

We knit the 'Easy Eyelet Poncho' (shown below) in cool, soft *Rowan Creative Linen*. A DK-weight blend of cotton and linen, its slightly rustic texture and mild heft is just right over bare shoulders. For the wrap (not shown), we combined *Rowan Kidsilk Haze* and *Softyak DK* for a chunkier gauge. Held together, they yield a drapery fabric with a glowing halo—the cuddly touch we'd like when the sun goes behind a cloud.

*Describing it as “a nice combination of interesting and mindless,” Lauren is set on knitting an ‘Easy Eyelet Wrap’. Or two. She’s on a quest for plant fiber blends that create drapery, supple fabric. At the top of her list: Rowan Cotton Cashmere.*

*Mimi, who loves a slightly elegant bohemian look, will use Erika Knight’s gently rustic Wild Wool for her ‘Easy Eyelet Poncho.’ The wool/nettle fiber combination is sure to be fascinating in this open stitch!*





*Freshy, always drawn to lace, loves the idea of adding a more rustic feel to the ‘Lace Sampler Scarf’—perhaps with Brooklyn Tweed Loft? Since it’s so easy to scale up, she’s thinking of making it a little wider and even more ‘wrappy.’*

*Anna has been itching to work with Shibui Tweed Silk Cloud—she thinks the ‘Lace Sampler Scarf’ could be the perfect fit! (And we just love what mohair does to lace, don’t you?)*

## LACE SAMPLER SCARF

This generous scarf is a lovely way to sample three of our favorite lace motifs! The English Mesh, Diagonal Lace, and Van Dyke patterns are fairly simple to do and easy to ‘read’—so they’re great practice for newer lace knitters and a relaxing walk in the park for the more experienced. And all three stitch patterns are accomplished in multiples of six—a mathematical match-up that allows each motif to flow prettily into the next.

*Isager Alpaca 2*—our choice for the ‘Lace Sampler Scarf’—is a knitter’s favorite all year round. Alpaca fiber brings soft drape and a little halo, while the merino wool promises that your lacy stitches will have memory and structure. And doesn’t *Isager* just have the most beautiful, earthy, spring-ready color palette?

## CROCHETED CROSSBODY BAGS & CLUTCH

When we originally designed the little ‘passport pouch’ for the 2019 LYS Tour, we wanted one to match every summer frock in our closet. So we took to our hooks and scaled up the size, played with color-blocking, and added an option for a flat, foldable clutch with a slotted handle. It’s super easy to give your individual touch to these bags—try out your own color-blocking ideas and use up leftover yarns for fun stripes! You’ll want another, then another, then another...

We chose two hardy plant fiber yarns to create sturdy, capable ‘Crocheted Crossbody Bags’. *Wool and the Gang’s Ra-Ra Raffia* is wonderfully crochet friendly—it makes lightweight yet sturdy bags for springtime adventures (see below). For a softer touch, we chose *Rowan Creative Linen*—a hard-wearing cotton/linen blend (not shown) and longtime favorite.

*Pam already knows she’ll crochet several of the ‘Crocheted Crossbody Bags’. She says, “I really like the simplicity of single crochet—as our friend Pam Reece used to say, ‘It’s handsome.’”*

*Gretchen has secured Pam’s promise to teach her and her daughter, Nicky, how to crochet—these ‘Crossbody Bags’ will be their first project together!*





## SPRING 2020 IN THE CLASSROOM



**ALL ABOUT OUR CLASSES:** If you're eager to learn or improve your skills, start by bookmarking the 'Sign Up for Classes' page on our website under 'LEARN', churchmouseyarns.com. There you'll see more details about all the classes currently available, and new offerings that are added between mailers. It's super easy to sign up for a class there. Be sure to check the fine print before ordering and get ready to become a better knitter!

**'DROP-IN' CIRCLES:** Stuck? Get help with your projects during these sessions.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOONS** 2:00–4:00pm (except 3/15, in-store event & 4/12, Easter)

**MONDAY MORNINGS** 10:00am–12:00pm

**TUESDAY AFTERNOONS** 2:00–4:00pm

**THURSDAY MORNINGS** 10:00am–12:00pm

**FRIDAY MORNINGS** 10:00am–12:00pm

Maximum: 6 students \$16/2 hours; \$8/second hour only. \$64/10 prepaid hours.

To ensure a spot, sign up in advance by calling the shop: 206-780-2686, option 4.

**OPEN TABLE FREE!** Meet old friends and make new ones.

**TUESDAY & SUNDAY MORNINGS** 10:00am–12:00pm (except 4/12, Easter)

**THURSDAY AFTERNOONS** 4:00–6:00pm

It's not a class, but a chance to gather with like-minded fiber fans. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or stitching for a chance to hang out in good company. You'll be surprised at what you can learn alongside your neighbor!

**CHARITY CIRCLE FREE!** All levels welcome.

*First Wednesday afternoons* 1:00–3:00pm 3/4, 4/1, 5/6 with Jennifer Slack **at BARN.**

*Third Thursday afternoons* 1:00–3:00pm 3/19, 4/16, 5/21 with Sally Dunbar **at the shop!**

We meet twice a month for charity knitting, crochet, and conversation. We can find a good home for any project you'd like to tackle! No registration needed—just drop by. Won't you join us?

**KIDS KNITTING: Learn to Knit or Pick a Project** with Jennifer Burlingame

*Wednesday afternoons* 3:30–4:30pm or 4:30–5:30pm

4/1, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29 (Note: Skips a week) or

5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27

If you've never knit before, come in and learn! Or finish a project and start something new! Miss B's class is popular, so sign up early. Ages 7 and up. Parents: Please arrive 15 minutes early to purchase supplies for first class.

Maximum: 7 students \$40 (4-session class)

## **LEARN TO KNIT, STEP ONE: One-session immersion**

*Saturday afternoon 2:00-5:00pm 3/14 or*

*Saturday afternoon 1:00-4:00pm 4/11 or*

*Saturday afternoon 2:00-5:00pm 5/2*

For those with limited time, we're offering our usual *Learn to Knit: Fingerless Gloves* class in one three-hour session. *We'll provide:* A coupon for one free, two-hour 'Drop-In' Circle on a day of your choice (\$16 value); a *Churchmouse Learn-to-Knit Kit* (\$36 value); and your first skein of yarn (\$22 value). No previous experience required.

Maximum: 6 students \$95 (1-session workshop)

## **LEARN TO CROCHET: One-session immersion**

*Saturday afternoon 1:00-4:00pm 3/28*

*You'll learn:* All the basics you'll need for a lifetime of crocheting. *You'll make:* Pretty handwarmers where you can practice three basic stitches in a repeating pattern. *We'll provide:* a coupon for one free, two-hour 'Drop-In' Circle (\$16 value); a *Churchmouse Learn-to-Crochet Kit* (\$36 value); and your first skein of yarn (\$22 value). No previous experience is required.

Maximum: 6 students \$95 (1-session workshop)

## **LEARN TO KNIT CABLES**

*Wednesday evening 6:00-7:30pm 3/25*

Gain the confidence you need to knit any pattern that includes cables! *You'll learn:* The basics of knitting cables and reading charted instructions. *We'll provide:* A coupon for one free, two-hour 'Drop-In' Circle (\$16 value); a few useful tools to try out; and a pattern for an easy first cabled project.

Maximum: 6 students \$25 (1-session workshop)

## **LEARN TO KNIT, STEP TWO: Ribbed Beanie**

*Saturday mornings 10:30am-12:30pm 3/7, 3/14, 3/21*

If you've learned the basics, you're ready to knit a hat. *You'll learn:* Joining in the round, and working with double-point needles. *You'll make:* A cute ribbed beanie. *We'll provide:* A coupon for one free two-hour 'Drop-In' Circle (\$16 value); *Churchmouse 'First Projects'* pattern (\$7 value).

Maximum: 6 students \$75 (3-session workshop)

## **OOPS! (Or The Anatomy of a Stitch) with Kit Hutchin**

*Saturday afternoons 1:00-3:00pm 4/18, 4/25*

Learn how to see the structure of a good stitch so you'll know what to do when one goes wrong. Covers how to pick up, un-knit, and rip (and a few tricks so you don't need to). Basic knitting skills required. Maximum: 6 students \$50 (2-session workshop)

### **INFO, UPDATES, & NEW CLASSES ONLINE**

Sign up for timely emails and visit our 'LEARN' tab and 'EVENT CALENDAR' (under 'ABOUT' tab) on our website, churchmouseyarns.com.



# the tea PANTRY

This March, we're featuring *SA Organic Green Teas* at **10% off** as our **Featured Fave**. Among the finest green teas we've tasted, they've been farmed and blended using traditional, sustainable practices and an unerring palate.

*Sugimoto Teas* protects the symbiosis between their tea fields and the native grasslands of their home in Shizuoka, Japan, near Mount Fuji. The Sugimoto farmlands have earned recognition as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System by the United Nations! Such care goes into these teas, they'll win over green tea beginners and assure the affections of connoisseurs.

We encourage you—with **10% off** each—to try all four delectable blends:

*Sen Cha* (top right) is the classic Japanese green tea that accounts for over 80% of all tea sipped in Japan! This exemplary version has a grassy aroma, mild sweet taste, and a very delicate bite.

*Hoji Cha* (top left) is a green tea whose leaves and stems are roasted, the grassy flavor becoming earthy and toasty.

*Genmai Cha* (lower center) blends bright leaves with toasted rice for a mellow, nutty flavor. The Sugimotos note that it's a particular favorite among Americans.

*Daily Matcha*, new to our shelves, is slightly bolder than the revered ceremonial matcha. Brilliant, tender leaves harvested in early spring are finely powdered to whisk into a frothy brew (tips below).



## MAKING MATCHA

*The touted health benefits of matcha come from ingesting all the goodness of the leaf. Here are a few tips on whipping it up. It's also wonderful in baking, lattes, or smoothies.*

Bring fresh water to 175°F/80°C (not boiling; too hot and your tea will be bitter). Scoop ½–1 tsp. matcha powder into a broad-mouthed cup or small bowl. Slowly add 2 ounces of hot water. Using a fork, small whisk, or bamboo tea whisk (right), stir briskly for 10–30 seconds (use a loose-wristed Z or W motion for a little more creamy foam). Drink immediately! You can add a little more water if you like—play 'til you find the ritual that works for you.



# shop EVENTS

## HELGA ISAGER REVEALS A NEW YARN: Sunday, March 15th, 1:00–4:00pm.

Meet designer Helga Isager, visiting from Denmark, and be one of the first to try the all new *Isager Alpaca 3* yarn, a chunky weight chainette alpaca/wool blend in ten signature Isager shades. Helga will bring samples from her newest collection and stories about her family's origins in the world of yarn. Look for the new yarn on our website the same day.

**BROOKLYN TWEED TRUNK SHOWS, ALL SEASON LONG:** We're in line for several visiting collections. Come see—and feel—the essence of Brooklyn Tweed in person.

**February 22nd-March 8th.** *Wool People 13* mini collection.

**March 21st-April 5th.** *Bridge City: Inscribed* collection.

**April 11th-April 26th.** *Bridge City: Congruence* collection.

## KNITTING WITH COMPANY SOIRÉE. Friday evening, April 3rd, 7:00–9:00pm.

Join the party as we host a visit from Catherine Lowe, Julie Hoover, Kate Atherley, and Andrea Rangel. Refreshments and camaraderie. No charge; all are welcome.

## PUGET SOUND LYS TOUR. Wednesday–Sunday, May 13th–17th.

Extended hours: Wednesday through Saturday 10–8, Sunday 10–6. Free patterns, discounts, and daily drawings at 25 Local Yarn Shops around Puget Sound, including yours truly. Get passport stamps and enter to win grand prizes. So gather your fellow fiber fans and hit the road! We'd love to see you on the Island if you can fit us in. See more at [lystour.com](http://lystour.com).



Choose a new pattern FREE\* with any purchase,  
online and in our Island store.

## PATTERN LAUNCH PARTY

*It's a Leap Year! Yay—an extra day to knit!*

Join us all day on **Saturday, February 29th** as we celebrate five new *Churchmouse Classics* designed to build your wardrobe and boost your skills. Drop by the shop and try them on!

*\*One per customer please.*



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