

Spend a Weekend with Marilyn Van Keppel

April 4 – 6, 2008

Sponsored by the Windy City Knitting Guild, Chicago, IL

Marilyn Van Keppel is a retired professor of mathematics. She's been knitting for over 50 years and also enjoys weaving, spinning, natural dyeing, cooking, travel, playing the piano (mostly Bach), reading, and walks with her Jack Russell terrier. Marilyn attends Meg Swansen's Knitting Camp each year, and one year she discovered a book of shawl patterns written in a strange looking language. Intrigued, she wanted to make some of the shawls and found a dictionary to help her translate some of the terms. Unfortunately, the library eventually wanted their book back, so she went to the Faroe Islands to buy a dictionary of her very own. "I felt from the first moment there that I had found my spiritual home."



Class #1: Knitting in the North Atlantic (lecture and video)

Friday, April 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.
(Evanston Ecology Center)

Learn a little about the physical aspects (geology, flora, fauna, climate) and history of the four island countries, Shetland, Faroes, Iceland and Greenland. Marilyn will also talk about the sheep and the knitting traditions in each country. This will all be followed by a tour of the Faroe Islands via video.

2 hours. Skill level: All levels. **Class Size:** 35 students.

Homework: None.

Materials: Paper and pen to take notes.

As has become our tradition, attendees are asked to bring a dessert to share for our dessert buffet. Coffee, tea and water will be provided.

Class #2: Icelandic Shawls

Saturday, April 5, 2008, - 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

We will start a simple shawl (sized to fit a small teddy bear). Various methods of beginning will be considered, and the student will choose which one to use for the shawl. While the knitting is being worked, an overview of the history of the shawls, and some shawls from Iceland, will be presented. The pattern for the simple shawl is presented in the same format as that of the Icelandic shawl book *Three-Cornered and Long Shawls*, and includes a simple all-over lace pattern in the body of the shawl along with a knitted-on lacy border.

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(Class #2 continued from previous page)

6 hours - Skill level: Advanced Beginner, some experience with lace knitting helpful

Class Size: 24 students.

Homework: none

Materials:

- lace weight yarn (preferably Icelandic) in 4 colors; about 75 yds., of the main color, 15 yds. of 2 other colors and 30 yds. of the 4th color
- U.S. #2, #6 and #8 straight or 24" circular needles (the shawl will be worked back and forth)
- a 3.75 mm crochet hook (U.S. size F)

Class #3 Faroese Shawls

Sunday, April 6, 2008, 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

A small shawl (teddy bear sized) incorporating the traditional styling of a Faroese shawl, is knitted in garter stitch with a lace inset. The pattern is written in the same style as those featured in the Faroese Shawl book *Foroysk Bindingarmynstur*. Some full sized Faroese shawls from the book will be shown and some of the variations featured in these shawls will be discussed.



6 hours - Skill level: Advanced Beginner

Class size: 24 students.

Homework: none

Materials:

- lace weight or jumper weight yarn (preferably Icelandic), 1/3 oz.(10 gr.) or about 60 yds.
- U.S. #6, #7, or # 8 straight or circular needles (this shawl is also worked back and forth)

Registrations will be accepted on a first-paid basis. When a class is filled to capacity, we will start a waiting list. If you are wait-listed for a class, we will return your check to you and ask you to send a new check if a space opens up in the class. There will be no refunds.

Lunch will not be provided for this workshop. Beginning at approximately noon there will be a 1-1/2 hr. lunch break that should allow ample time for each student to either go out to get lunch or eat what he or she brings. NO refrigeration will be available.

Some beverages will be available, such as coffee, tea and water. If you would like something else to drink, please bring your own drinks.

