

# Through the Shop Window

...the “little shop around the corner” on Mill Street



“From the unique to the antique!”

**5605 Mill Street, Richmond, IL 60071 (815) 678-4063**

February 2010

## **The Power of “Little”**

*As some of you may know, Penny received a “little” gift this Christmas. Dobbie, a “pocket puppy”, now brings our doggies count to three. At about three pounds and smaller than a skein of bulky yarn, you would think that the creature wouldn’t present any problems-so much for wishful thinking.*

*After my initial reaction to the addition (which wasn’t pretty), we have resolved to keep him. It’s a good thing he’s cute. Teaching him is another issue. It’s not that he isn’t smart. I think he may be too smart for a dog his size.*

*He knows no fear, and playfully attacks Mollie and Tootsie (much to their dismay). He has demonstrated that he would love to eat the bird and pounce on Mr. Bean. Since this behavior is unacceptable and dangerous for all involved, Bean and birdie are confined for their own safety.*

*Dobbie also loves wool a bit too much. Roving and yarn are colorful wonderful toys-a bad habit for a shop dog. And, since he is no bigger than a guinea pig, I am in constant fear that he will fall victim to a rocking chair-leaving me with a dead dog, a distraught wife, and a traumatized customer.*

*If we can survive his “toddler” stage, everything just might work out. I’ll have to get past the fact that I spent a lot of money fencing in the yard-only to end up with a dog small enough to walk under every gate.*

*Who would have thought that something so small would have the power to enact such change? Our old life and routine (BC-Before Canine) is gone. Our new life (AD-After Dobbie) is filled with constant watching, teaching, training, and a whole list of other responsibilities. Big things come and go-but it’s the little things that change your life. They can enrich you-or kill you.*

*So, stop on in and see our newest addition-just watch where you step. I think you’ll agree that the “tiny terror” is cute!*

## **March Classes**

**Beginning Crochet** Tuesdays Mar 2-23 7 PM–9 PM Crochet is an old fiber art form that has been “rediscovered”. New patterns and techniques have greatly advanced revived and expanded the possibilities crochet can offer. It’s not your “granny’s squares” any more. New materials allow you to create baskets, vases, and countless items, in addition to lace and garments. This class will get you started. The class is limited to 6 students. The fee is \$60, and does not include materials or tools.

**Knitting with Lace Weight Yarns** Wednesdays Mar 3-31 7PM-9PM Since the publishing of the book *French Girl Knits*, scores of knitters have admired the patterns and designs done in lace weight yarn. Now is your chance to try these wonderful yarns. We’ll use the pattern for the Caplet from the book to create a truly special garment. Don’t be afraid of lace weight, in this class you won’t go it alone. Challenge yourself and reap the rewards! The class fee is \$60, and does not include the materials. Class is limited to 4 students.

**Knitting Socks** Thursdays Mar 4-25 7PM-9PM Do you love to knit but fear double pointed needles? Knitting with a porcupine (double points) is not as hard as it looks. In fact, you’re still only knitting with two needles (the others are just holding the stitches). Socks are a wonderful thing to knit. As a project, they are portable, and can go with you anywhere. The finished socks are comfortable, and can be made specifically to fit your foot. If you’ve never tried socks, or have in the past with little success, this class is for you. We’ll use a basic sock pattern and cover casting on, turning the heel, and closing the toe. You can knit socks and love it! Class is limited to 4 students. The fee is \$60 and does not include materials. Extra knitting will be required outside of class time.

## **Watch for what’s new!**

As always, we scout out the latest and greatest at TNNA, and at this year’s winter market it was no different. Look for new sock yarns from Skacel, Mountain Colors, and Cherry Tree Hill, new notions from Notions Marketing, and the latest in patterns from Fiber Trends and Bryson.

Have you ever thought of becoming a Master Knitter? TKGA (The Knitting Guild of America) offers a Knitting Masters, and several of our customers have shown interest in working through the program. It begins with “Basic, Basic, Basic”, and works through advanced knitting and designing. We are planning to set aside shop time to focus on this program. If you are interested, or if you would like more details, call Penny at the shop during our regular hours.

Believe it or not, we are already planning for the Midwest Folk and Fiber Arts Show, which will be held at the new Lake county Fairground Pavilion. It’s hard to believe, but summer is just a few months away!