



*Time for our third annual
knitting retreat, Ithaca Style!*

KNIT ITHACA!

*When: Nov. 8th - 11th, 2019
(with optional Maker Monday extension)*

*Where: Downtown Marriott
Ithaca, NY*

*with Laura Nelkin
&
Thea Colman*

I've planned an extra-special intimate weekend with lots of time to expand our knitting knowledge, explore the Finger Lakes Region, eat great food, taste our local wines and spirits, and knit together! We'll be based at the Marriott, right at the base of The Commons in Ithaca, NY. This means there is a plethora of amazing restaurants, shopping, coffee, used book stores, craft galleries, bars, and more!

We'll have the meeting rooms on the second floor of the Marriott overlooking downtown Ithaca all to ourselves. The space has huge windows and amazing natural light, perfect for knitting and people watching all at once! Our room will be open from 7 am-11 pm every day for knitting/hanging/being together! Thea Colman, an innovative knit designer and fierce buddy of mine, will be joining us for the weekend and teaching us a hands-on cable theory class on Saturday. Knitters of all levels will expand their knitting knowledge in her class. Plus, Thea will be hanging out with us, and you'll be able to pick her brain all you want (within reason, of course) I hear tell she'll be creating a signature Knit Ithaca cocktail for us!!!

I'm planning on designing another epic piece for this retreat... details on that once I imagine it up!

Space is limited, and I expect the retreat to fill up quickly... sign ups will open April 6th at 12 pm EST to members of Lola's Choice and The N Club. If spots are still open on April 7th, they will be released! More info on the last page of this document.

Schedule at a Glance

(Knit-Ithacans will get a full schedule in the fall)

Friday Nov 8th PM

- Arrival- 3 - 5 pm Check In and Local Food Snack Time
- Dinner
- Welcome “Ceremonies” & Friday Night Lecture with Thea:
Yes, it’s called BabyCocktails and I’ll tell you why
The story behind the unusual name, a little about how Thea came to design, and how a creative business has changed over time.
- Knit Night #1 (until 11 pm)

Saturday Nov 9th

- Breakfast
- Morning Class with Thea or Laura (see page 3 for details)
- Bus to Ithaca Farmer’s Market for Lunch or Shopping/Lunch on the Commons
- Afternoon Class with Thea or Laura (see page 3 for details)
- Free Time/Dinner on your own in Ithaca
(Laura will provide you with a list of favorite restaurants/shops and a walking map...)
- Knit Night #2 with Local Artisan Pop-Up Shop (until 11 pm)

Sunday Nov 10th

- Breakfast
- Tour of Aurora, NY! (see page 4 for details)
- Dinner
- Fashion Show and Knit Night #3 (until 11 pm)

Monday Nov 11th AM

- Goodbye Breakfast Spread
- 11 am- Checkout

OPTIONAL “MAKER MONDAY” (20 spots available)

Monday Nov 11th AM 9 am-5 pm

- I’ve invited two local friends who are passionate and talented women to share their skills with us. The group will split into two and spend the morning with one instructor and the afternoon with the other.
- Natasha Keller from Clotheshorse Studio will be teaching the Wool and Wax Tote.
- Becky Yates from Modern Punch will be teaching Punch Needle Rug Making.
- Lunch

Materials included for both classes (see page 5 for details)

Not Included: Dinner

Saturday Classes

(Everyone will take two classes on Saturday, one with Thea and one with Laura)

Playing with Cables with Thea Colman

Cables are one of my favorite things to design with, but many knitters don't understand how they work and what we can do with them. In this workshop, I cover different ways to make cables work for us, as knitters -- by deconstructing the yarns, the stitches, and the motifs used and then looking at each one of those elements as building blocks to play with. From altering an existing motif to changing the elements within a cable, to creating your own designs, this workshop touches on a number of tricks and techniques that give you a sense of empowerment and the ability to create and change cables on your own knits.

About Thea!

Thea Colman combined her hobbies and created a career that justifies all her favorite purchases -- yarn, drinks, and vintage glassware. Her knitwear designs often feature cables, lace, and motifs that look harder than they are, and each one is named after a cocktail. Both the knits and the drinks are usually on her Instagram feed, under @theacolman.



This year's Itha-Knit with Laura Nelkin

Join Laura for a two hour class that delves deeply into the techniques used in her new yet-to-be-named pattern! By the end of class, you will be ready to cast on for the latest Itha-Design! Previous year's have seen Taughanock Shawl and the Ithaca Collection (Itha-Cowl, Itha-Mitts, and Itha-Head)! Who knows what this year will have in store!

Your goodie bag will contain swatching yarn for the design and a bunch of other local goodies! Goodie Bag making is one of Laura's favorite pastimes!

About Laura!

Laura lives outside Ithaca, New York, where the sunny season is short, leaving plenty of time to be indoors knitting. Despite holding a degree in apparel design from Cornell University, she took to knitting years ago and hasn't looked back. Laura's designs and techniques are innovative, fun, and will challenge you to think in new ways about your knitting. Laura shares her skills in workshops across the country, on-line with Craftsy, and in her spare time leads knitting tours abroad.



About a month before the retreat, you will receive an e-mail with any class supplies you'll need for both classes!

Taste of Seneca Lake Tour

Sunday November 10, 2019

I've rented us a motorcoach, and we are taking off to check out Aurora, NY, and all it has to offer!!!

We'll head out first thing in the morning for a gorgeous drive up the east side of Cayuga lake to Aurora, NY. Our first stop is Mackenzie-Childs, where designers and artisans work in a tranquil Victorian farm to create their signature home furnishings. We'll learn about their design and work process and then take a tour of their Second-Empire farmhouse which is completely designed by the Mackenzie-Childs team. Finally, we'll get to stroll their stunning grounds or go shopping-- matching doorknobs for everyone! Afterwards we'll head into Aurora proper, where we will have a bit of time to stroll through the village (weather permitting). Then we'll have a grand lunch at the just re-done Aurora Inn overlooking Cayuga Lake. There will be time for relaxing and knitting and chatting. After lunch, Aurora Shoes has agreed to come talk with us about shoe design and their line of hand-crafted shoes from right down the road. (We are too big a group to go there on a tour!) After the lecture, we'll go to Treleven winery (they have one of my favorite local chardonnays) and have a wine and local cheese tasting... finally, on the way home we'll stop by Ithaca Falls, which is an absolutely GORGES waterfall located in downtown Ithaca! Then we'll head back to the hotel to recuperate before dinner and our fashion show.

Tour **Mackenzie-Childs**



Delicious Lunch at
Aurora Inn



Wine tasting and local cheese at
Treleven Winery



Visit **Ithaca Falls**

Talk with **Aurora Shoes**



Maker Monday

(ONLY 20 spots available... everyone will take two classes one with Natasha and one with Becky)

Wool and Wax Tote with Natasha Keller

Whether you are an advanced sewer or a novice, this is a class you will enjoy. We'll create a custom, one-of-a-kind bag made with gorgeous materials like waxed linen, leather, and metal. Skills include cutting fabric, reading a pattern, sewing waxed canvas, top stitching, boxed corners, and setting metal rivets in leather (very simple and gratifying).

No equipment is required on your part - class includes machines, scissors, patterns, seam rippers, pins, etc. You can buy your lining fabric ahead of time, and we'll have the rest of the supplies for you to choose from at the time of class.

Supplies Needed: 1 yard lining fabric (quilting cotton or similar)

Materials Provided in Class: Pattern, waxed fabric, heavy duty thread, leather handles, metal rivets

About Natasha!

I am Natasha Keller and I love (LOVE) to sew. I started when I was a child, and it is all I have wanted to do since. I even love to production sew, which I have done for my own business and for other's. But what I love most is sewing for myself. There is such a thrill in creating something to be used in daily life, that replaces something that was made by someone else. It's so empowering, and it changes the way you look at things. Clothing is no longer something made in a far-off land with sweat and computers and mystery. It's made by people! I am one of those people! And YOU can be one of those people! There is absolutely no reason why you can't be.

Natasha is AMAZING! Learn more about her at: <https://clotheshorsestudio.com/>



Punch Needle Basics with Becky Yates

Students will learn the basics of punch needle rug hooking, using the Oxford Punch Needle. With this technique, you can make wall hangings, pillow covers, pouches, rugs, and more. Materials and instruction will be provided to complete a small wall hanging.

Materials Provided in Class: Oxford Punch Needles, hoops, primitive linen, rug yarn, poker/prodder

About Becky!

Fiber artist Becky Yates has lived in Ithaca with her family for over 10 years. A self-taught artist, she enjoys sewing, macrame, and experimenting with natural dyes, but punch needle rug hooking is where she has found her soulcraft. Preferring to use natural materials like linen and wool, she finds inspiration in landscapes, antique shops, and traditional quilt blocks.

To learn more, visit Becky's website at www.themodernpunch.com.



Location

We'll be based at the brand-new **Marriott**, right at the base of The Commons in Ithaca, NY. This means there is a plethora of amazing restaurants, shopping, coffee, used book stores, craft galleries, bars, AND BEST YET? Your Knitting Friends!

Getting To/From- Ithaca is easy to get to. You can fly in (the hotel has a free shuttle from the Ithaca airport), you can take a bus, or you can drive! There is inexpensive parking (not included) attached to the hotel. Details [here](#).

What's Included in the Retreat?

Food and Meals- Local Food Welcome Spread, 3 FULL Breakfasts, 1 Fancy Lunch at the Aurora Inn, 2 Dinners, tastings on Sunday's tour!

Bus to Ithaca Farmer's Market on Saturday!

Goodie Bag!

Accommodations (optional)- 3 nights at the Downtown Ithaca Marriott, a lovely, modern, and newly constructed hotel right in the heart of the "city"

Knitting Workshops- Two classes, one with Thea and one with Laura!

Yes, it's called BabyCocktails and I'll tell you why- A lecture by expert knitter, drinker, and activist Thea Colman

Aurora Explorer Tour!



Signing Up

Sign ups will open April 6th at 12 pm EST to members of Lola's Choice and The N Club. If spots are still open on April 7th at 12 pm EST they will be released!

A link will be sent to club members on April 5th; that link will not work until April 6th at 12 pm.

A \$300 deposit will sign you up, your balance will be automatically charged on Aug 15th, 2019.

Once you are signed up, you will receive a confirmation letter with a link to a form that must be filled out. This is where you will let Laura know about your roommate choices (if you requested a double) and any dietary restrictions.

Fees

With Hotel Room (I encourage you to do this... it is WAY more fun for us all to be in one hotel)

\$1340- shared/knitter per person (Two Queens)

\$1070- shared/non-knitter per person

\$1740- solo knitter (One King)

Commuters

\$940/knitter

\$670/non-knitter

Note: Non-knitters participate in all meals and the tour but don't take the knitting classes on Saturday or get a goodie bag. These spots are very limited.

If you are rooming with a non-knitter, you **MUST** register them when you register yourself. Space on the tour is limited.

If you are booking a King, register the non-knitter as a Commuter-Non-Knitter!

Maker Monday Extension (per person)

\$335- shared per person (Two Queens)

\$440- solo (One King)

\$230- commuter

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- You can book extra nights at the hotel on your own; just call them and let them know you are participating in Knit Ithaca. If you are doing the extension to CMOG, a night is included in that (unless you are a commuter).

Cancellation Policy

A \$300 fee will be charged for cancellations before August 15, 2019.

No refund will be given after August 15, 2019, unless your space can be filled; then you will receive a full refund, less a \$300 processing fee.