

The Setting

Crashing waves on a rugged coastline, a picturesque lighthouse, great hiking and charming towns to explore nearby, and a group of interesting knitters to hang out with. What more could you want on a nice fall weekend?

This year we'll have our own little house. We'll stay in the historic lighthouse keepers' home, at the Pigeon Point Lighthouse Hostel in Pescadero, on the coast 50 miles south of San Francisco.



Love to cook? We'll have our own kitchen and dining room in which you can make and enjoy your meals. You can also grill up something on the barbeque

and eat at a picnic table overlooking the ocean. Prefer to have others do the cooking? You'll find delis and Duarte's, a classic tavern, just five miles away.

Our house has two rooms with three bunk beds to accommodate six people each (one will be all women, the other potentially mixed). Bring your own bedding or sleeping bag and towel.



A cooperative spirit is an important component of the hostel experience. During the weekend, everyone will assist with daily cleaning chores, requiring about five to ten minutes each day.

The Teachers

Thea Gray teaches knitting at BookShop West Portal in San Francisco. She began knitting in third grade and has barely stopped since, even flying 6000 miles in a weekend to polish her couture techniques. Known for bountiful patience, Thea loves teaching the joys of knitting.



Thea (left) with author Karen Solomon

Thea creates a warm, welcoming environment, in which I feel very comfortable asking for clarification or repetition. She's a great listener, and creatively adjusts her teaching style to the needs of her students, depending on their level of experience.

— *Jenny, MLA degree candidate*

Not only is Thea a patient and thorough teacher, she's enthusiastic and skilled in many different knitting techniques. She's helped me go beyond merely following patterns.

— *Rachella, freelance writer and editor*

Thea's terrific! She's not only knowledgeable but also incredibly patient with all our mistakes. Her humor and demeanor make both the classes and the drop-ins a great experience.

— *Jeanne, rookie knitter*



Kathy Fugitt has been a spinner for many years. She has taught spinning in a variety of venues, including Renaissance fairs and children's art classes. You can tell Kathy is a spinner by all the wheels, spindles, rovings, and other stuff associated with the 'textillian' life that she has amassed.



Spinnity—designer of Larus & Ardu—spins, birds, and knits in the SF Bay Area. She has a bad habit of combining hobbies "in the field," which sometimes leads to muddy knitting projects and broken dpns. She blogs at <http://spinnity.blogspot.com>.

Knitting on the Coast

September 25-27, 2009



A Knitting Retreat in Pescadero, California



"The Pigeon Point Hostel tends to enchant its guests and destroy their will to leave."

— *The Berkeley Guides*

For more information, connect to:

www.theagray.com/knitting
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2009 Retreat

Join us for a relaxing knitting getaway on the California coast! You'll gain new skills while soaking up beautiful vistas.

Geared to advanced beginners and intermediate knitters, * this weekend retreat provides both formal classes and an informal knitting clinic where you can get answers to your knitting bugaboos.



Maze & Chevron Chart Your Own Larus & Ardea

If the weather is warm, our class may move outside overlooking the ocean; if it's cool, we'll cozy up in the historic fog signal building.

During your free time, work on your knitting in sight of the lighthouse or step outside for breathtaking views of the ocean; take a naturalist-led hike, visit an atmospheric town nearby, or just wander to the beach for a nap!

*At a minimum, all participants must be able to cast on, knit and purl (and distinguish between the two by sight), and bind off.



Our house at the Pigeon Point Lighthouse, on a bluff overlooking the ocean.

The Schedule

Sign Up

The retreat fee is \$225, which includes instruction for the main classes and two nights' stay at the hostel, plus coffee in the morning and tea in the afternoon.

No meals are provided and additional tuition fees are required for the naturalist-led hike, Intro to Spinning class, and Larus & Ardea class.

To sign up: visit www.theagray.com/knitting where you can pay using PayPal, or mail this completed form and a check written to Thea Gray to 371 Wawona St, SF, CA 94127.

Retreat registration is limited to 12. Places will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be confirmed once full payment of the \$225 fee is received.

A waiting list will be maintained once all spots are filled. Should a registrant be unable to attend and the cancellation is received on or before Friday, July 31, 2009, a full refund less a \$50 cancellation fee will be available. No refunds will be available after that date.

Participants should be on site no later than 6:30 pm on Friday, September 25; driving directions will be provided.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

I would prefer to stay in: a women's dorm a mixed dorm either dorm

Please notify me if space becomes available to have an adult friend stay overnight for \$28/night

Register me for the retreat: \$225.00

In the chart-your-own class I'll make mittens a hat

Sign me up for the Intro to Spinning class: \$50.00*

Sign me up for the Larus & Ardea class: \$45.00*

Sign me up for the naturalist-led hike: \$5.00

Majority rules, but I'd like a hike on: birds history

sea life native plants redwoods any of these

Check number _____ for TOTAL: \$ _____

*Spaces in the two optional classes not filled by retreat attendees will become generally available when the retreat is full or on August 1, whichever comes sooner.

Friday, September 25

7:00-9:00p **TECHNIQUE SAMPLER.** We'll dip into a tasty sampler of techniques for fixing mistakes, seaming, and making buttonholes.

Saturday, September 26

9:00a-noon **MAZE AND CHEVRON HAT.** This fun mosaic pattern by Deborah Bennett will give a slip-stitch newbie a great introduction and an old hand good practice in the technique. We'll start off at the brim with the attractive braided band. This project could make a great tea cosy, too!

1:30-4:30p **CHART YOUR OWN HAT OR MITTENS.** Using blanks by Adrian Bizilja (helloyam), we'll draw up our own designs for stranded knitting and then make them a reality. Students who can do the homework can launch right into their new patterns.

4:30-8:00p **Free time and dinner break**

4:45-6:45p **Optional naturalist-led hike** (\$5 per person)

8:00-10:00p **A GOOD OL' FASHIONED STITCH 'N BITCH,** knitting clinic, and yarn swap! Bring projects to show and work on, plus a skein or two from your yarn stash to swap. If you'd like help reading a pattern, bring several copies so anyone who wishes can follow along as we work through it.

Sunday, September 27

9:30-11:30a **OPTIONAL additional class** (separate \$50 tuition) **INTRO TO DROP SPINNING.** Kathy will teach the basics of drop-spinning—a great way to learn the basic principles before trying a spinning wheel. Tuition includes a high quality drop spindle and practice fiber.

11:30-12:30p **Lunch break**

12:30-3:00p **OPTIONAL additional class** (separate \$45 tuition) **LARUS & ARDEA FINGERLESS MITTS.** Spinnity teaches us the Swedish twined knitting skills we'll need to knit her beautiful mitts, from the three-strand cast-on to the thumb increases. Must be comfortable working in the round with double pointed needles or two circulars.

Find homework, pattern links, and lists of required and recommended material at www.theagray.com/knitting/retreat_2009.html.