



# Black Sheep

at Orenco Summer 2014 Newsletter

## Meet The New Weekend Crew:



Leah Wegner and Thali Ramirez make up the new weekend crew at Blacksheep. Both will work on Saturday and each will work a second day during the week. Both are college students at Portland Community College and Portland State University. In addition to working in the store Leah is getting the long stagnant webpage back in shape. Leah has knit and crocheted for several years and Thali took both the beginning Knitting and Crochet classes here at Blacksheep during the winter and is quickly becoming a skilled knitter and crocheter. Come in and visit on Saturdays and help them feel welcome.

## Shop 'News'



- **Bamboo sock and lace!** Minnesota yarns imports these lovely little yarns from China. Who better to do bamboo? They are super soft and perfect for summer knitting. At just \$5.00 a skein these little gems are worth a try.



- **Wallace Woodworking.** As well as added shawl pins Rod has come up with a beautiful magic wand! If you are a Harry potter fan or just like magical things come have a look at these. From \$25-\$90 there is a wide range of styles for everyone.



- **Signature Needles.** We have in new stock and some interesting signature gadgets to try.

- **Ashford Spinning gear.** Blacksheep at Orenco is now Ashford dealer. We currently have in stock niddy noddys, repair kits, wheel oil, dyeing supplies, superwash merino fleece, Lazy kates and wheels! In stock now are Kiwi 2's, Joy and a vintage Traveler. Come in and try one out. We also offer a rental service. If you want to try out a wheel for a month the fee is \$35.00. If you decide to buy this fee will be applied towards your purchase price.



- **Sock yarn.** We have loaded up on sock yarn to help you create this summer. There is Theresa Ruch Tencil, Misti Alpaca, Blue mountain colors, Ragia. I have seen these lovely yarns made into hitchhiker shawls, Estonian lace scarves, excellent vacation sock projects, and even sweaters. Sock weight yarns provide just the right amount of weight in your lap on a warm summer day.



- **Eggs?** I know eggs in a yarn store? Well as most of you know my daughter Grace rides horses. The owners of her stable ([herroldstables.com](http://herroldstables.com)) also raise happy chickens that lay a whole lot of eggs. And we have offered to stock them in the fridge. Just put your \$3 for 6, \$5 per dozen or \$7 for 18 into the envelope and help yourself.
- **Classes, Classes, Classes:** Make sure and check out the Calendar and the class offerings on the webpage. Over the coming months we will have bios, class project photos and more. There will be a tweens class to make macramé friendship bracelets, spinning special fibers, fleece to yarn, beginning tatting and more! Go have a look at current offerings and make sure and check back as changes are in the works.

## Stitch and Pitch is Coming to Hillsboro!



On August 24 we will hold the first annual Stitch and Pitch at a Hillsboro Hops game. All stitchers are welcome! Bring your hand quilting, knitting, Crochet, Tatting, drop spindle, embroidery or tapestry. Together we will spend a fun evening watching the Hillsboro Hops play against Spokane. For \$14 we get great seats together and can stitch while we watch the game. You can pre-purchase your tickets at Black Sheep at Orenco. If you want your local stitch shop to participate just have them contact me and I will get them set up.

## Crochet, Knit, Spin or Tat at the Orenco Farmers Market:



Come join us every third Sunday all season for fiber craft in public! We will have the sun-shade set up and a special stitch marker for each attendee. All you need to do is bring your project and a chair. We will be there from 10am-2pm sharing our love of all things fiber-y with market goers. For more information about the market go to:  
<http://hillsboromarkets.org/markets/orenco/>

## Free Project: Toddlers Summer Sun Hat



These little summer sun hats are made from cotton so are washable, packable and fit little heads nicely. But who says you have to just make them for children. You can increase the cast on numbers or just keep increasing the crown on the crochet version until it fits your head! I had fun playing with color and embellishments. Come on into the shop at look at the array of cotton colors you can make these hats from. You can also see the hats! I have them up on the shelf. **The pattern is available on the blog at [blacksheepatorenco.blogspot.com](http://blacksheepatorenco.blogspot.com)**

## Meet Amy Pittman



Some of you have seen Amy around the shop on Tuesday evenings. She is our newest shop teacher and has stepped up to help guide our new growing Fiber department at Blacksheep at Orenco. Amy is a skilled spinner, wheel tuner, a weaver and dabbler in social media. Amy will be leading the third Tuesday Spin night, teaching spinning classes and hosting our new fiber/spinning related corner in the newsletter. This month Amy has provided us with information about Ashford wheels.

## The Fiber Column: Ashford Spinning Wheels

So I am pretty excited about Tina's decision to carry Ashford wheels, fiber and accessories. Why am I excited? In a word trust. I have been a fiber artist for more than half my life and I simply trust their products. I will admit I am biased. I have spun on their wheels since the 1980's and probably have personally handled about six dozen of the various models. Each has been a solidly built trouble free machine. And that includes the few that came to me in pieces. Of course, that they were so easily repairable is visible proof that Ashford's designs work. Well that and the fact that Ashford has now sold over 500,000 spinning wheels. Not bad for a business that was started by a lone woodworker on a bicycle back in the 1930's.

I could write pages about why I think Ashford rocks. But instead I'll leave you with Five Fun Ashford Facts -Ashford is 70 and is still owned and operated by the Ashford family. -Among other innovations, the company's founder, Walter, originated the concept of the "assemble and save" wheel and the quick release the Ashford Scotch Tension flyer.-Ashford lead the manufacture of wheels for home spinners during World War 2 allowing the production of countless of woolen socks, gloves and hats for New Zealand soldiers, sailors and airmen overseas.-The first Ashford Traditional Spinning Wheel was produced in 1965.-In 1986 Walter was awarded the Queen's Service Medal, a fitting honour for a man who gave a lifetime's dedication to crafts and his local community.

For more information on the history of Ashford and the development of their equipment see <http://www.ashford.co.nz> and Mary Knox's <http://www.nzspinningwheels.info>.

*Amy Pittman*

Events and Classes: See the 'Workshops and Events' page at [www.blacksheepatorenco.com](http://www.blacksheepatorenco.com) for more information on specific classes and events and the online signup page. (e) evening event (m) morning event (a) Afternoon event

June						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
15	16	17 Hand Work Guild (m) Almost beginners group (e) Spinning Guild (e)	18	19 Hand-work Guild (e)	20	21 Estonian Lace Knitalong (m)
22	23	24 Hand Work Guild (m) Dimensional felting: Balls, buttons and beads (e) Almost beginners group (e)	25	26 Hand-work Guild (e)	27	28 Estonian Lace Knitalong (m)
29	30					
July						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Hand Work Guild (d) Almost beginners group (e)	2	3 Hand-work Guild (e)	4	5 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
6	7	8 Hand-work Guild (m) Fleece in the Raw (a) Almost beginners group (e)	9	10 Hand-work Guild (e)	11 Chardon-knitting (e)	12 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
13	14	15 Hand Work Guild (m) Fleece in the Raw(a) Almost beginners group (e) Spinning Guild (e)	16	17 Hand-work Guild (e)	18	19 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
20 Crochet, Knit, Tat and Spin in Public at the Farmers Market (m)	21	22 Hand Work Guild (m) Fiber Prep 101 (a) Almost beginners group (e) Hand Spindling 101 (e)	23	24 Hand-work Guild (e)	25	26 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
27	28	29 Hand Work Guild (m) Fiber Prep 101 (a) Almost beginners group (e) Hand Spindling 101 (e)	30	31 Hand-work Guild (e)		
August						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
3	4	5 Hand-work Guild (m) Small Loom Weaving (a) Almost beginners group (e) Spinning Bast Fibers (e)	6	7 Hand-work Guild (e)	8 Chardon-knitting (e)	9 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
10	11	12 Hand Work Guild (m) Small Look Weaving (a) Almost beginners group (e) Spinning Bast Fibers (e)	13	14 Hand-work Guild (e)	15	16 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
17 Crochet, Knit, Tat and Spin in Public at the Farmers Market (m)	18	19 Hand Work Guild (m) Spinning Guild (e) Almost beginners group (e)	20	21 Hand-work Guild (e)	22	23 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
24 Stitch and Pitch (e)	25	26 Hand Work Guild (m) Almost beginners group (e) Felted Cloth (e)	27	28 Hand-work Guild (e)	29	30 Summer sweater knitalong (m)
31						