

Cat Bordhi's 2018 Weaving for Knitters Retreats

Enticing news for 2018: The Island Inn, and weaving aboard the interisland ferry!

I've been holding my retreats on San Juan Island, Washington, for years. These islands are a natural paradise, about a 100 mile drive north of Seattle and then a ferry ride west through shimmering emerald waters.

Our new home is the tranquil Island Inn, just a minute's walk from the ferry. Imagine sipping coffee and watching the sun rise over Brown Island, painting the sky like a beautiful rose-gold skein of cashmere.



You can stroll about the village or the waterside park, wander the network of docks and fantasize about life aboard, walk along quiet forested roads, or rent a bike and intimately explore the island's byways.

The 2018 Sessions are: #1 MARCH 4-9 #2 MARCH 11-16 #3 MARCH 18-23 #4 APRIL 8-13

You'll arrive Sunday afternoon and depart Friday morning, giving us four complete days together.

Our beloved chef Deb Nolan will spoil us with her legendary meals. We'll spend a dreamy morning riding our inter-island ferry, floating among islands and watching the beauty stream past us as we weave.



I teach in the morning and afternoons are free.

You can walk to Island Wools, to art galleries, museums, bookstores, and specialty shops.

From a waterside bench in the marina you can watch float planes touch down gently and then skim away to gradually become airborne.

You may meet Popeye, a one-eyed seal famous for popping up dockside, and can see marine life up close in the aquarium house.

If you want an afternoon snack, you can visit a bakery or coffee house, or get a massage.

In the evening I spin tales from the fiber world, which returnees fondly refer to as my "bedtime stories."

Weaving for Knitters Island Retreats began last year



An idyllic afternoon during a 2017 weaving retreat at our previous location—overlooking the lake while our beloved chef, Deb Nolan (at left), tells us about the delicious dinner she is preparing.

Sixty curious knitters helped launch my new weaving retreats in the spring of 2017.

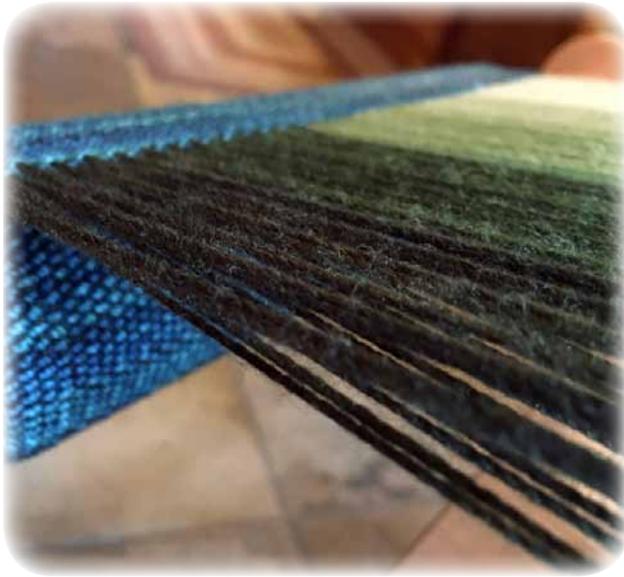
Many of these adventurous souls were regular attendees of my knitting retreats, and trusted that my kind, clear, and individualized teaching methods would guide them happily into this new rabbit hole.

With the exception of one person who realized she'd rather just knit, everyone returned home confident they could make scarves, wraps, bags, linens, and garments that joined knitting with weaving.

And the woman who discovered weaving didn't suit her? Her husband, who had accompanied her, tried her loom, ordered one, and has been weaving happily ever since. So gratifying for me!

And on we go, welcoming you to learn and experiment together in our beautiful setting.

A handful of reflections from last year's weavers



Laura, from Virginia

You arrive thinking you will learn a bit about weaving. Then a little bell rings and you enter the Cat zone, and emerge a few days later with your wishes fulfilled and so much more. I arrived as a knitter, stressed and looking forward to a few days off in a new location. I left as a weaver, not just in the warp and weft of my loom, but with the warp and weft threads of my life interwoven with new friends and an extended community of positive support and joy in our shared experience. The island was beautiful, restful, and the food was truthfully among the best I have ever eaten.

Jan, from California

Cat Bordhi retreats are truly magical. Cat taught weaving with grace and simplicity and I couldn't believe how quickly all of us were weaving fantastic pieces. The tips and tricks you learn are invaluable and you truly will "fall down the rabbit hole" as Cat likes to say. The setting and the food but even more the people that you are with will be a balm for your soul.

Kate, from British Columbia, Canada

This is one of the best gifts you can give yourself. Learning with Cat is dreamy and funny and stress-free all at the same time. The food is wondrous and the setting exquisite and I left feeling I had plugged into a community of new lifelong friends. I arrived not knowing a thing about weaving, and left with enough know-how and confidence to buy my own loom!

Dana, from Henry Island (a smaller island adjacent to San Juan Island)

As I reflect back on the Weaving for Knitters retreat I am filled with a warm fuzzy feeling just like the purring cat on my lap. I entered the retreat with the wobbly knees of a tiny kitten as I had never even knitted a stitch. I left feeling enveloped into a fold of friendship, community and inspiration, with my tail high like an adored confident tabby. Cat Bordhi is an astounding teacher filled with passion, joy, stories and easy short cuts to make the most difficult of leaps seem easy. Don't walk, run to sign up for this workshop as your life will be beautifully enriched by it.

Lori, from Virginia

At Cat Bordhi's weaving retreats, it's so much more than just learning what to do with warp and weft. As it all comes together, the marvelous teacher, the magnificent location, spectacular meals, and serene environment, every attendee becomes entwined into the cloth beneath their fingers. The fabric you bring home is filled with inspiration, friendship, hope and love. It holds memories of the stories shared, the beauty seen, the friendships formed and the artist created in you. Go!

Weaving projects for beginners and beyond

Sessions 1 and 2 are for brand new weavers and sessions 3 and 4 are for returnees and adventurous newcomers (I'll teach all fundamentals in both sessions). The adventurous newcomers can then be tempted by advanced possibilities, like log cabin threading and who knows what else!



This throw uses a fun pick-up stick technique that last year's new weavers fell in love with.



One of the patterns you will receive at the retreat is for this tunic (see detail below).



Many new weavers used Island Wools' color gradient yarn kits to make elegant scarves.



Weaving and knitting merge—it's hard to see where one begins and the other ends!

Weaving is a wonderful rabbit hole to fall into!

All those knitting yarns in your stash for which you've never been able to find quite the right pattern may suddenly find their true calling on the loom, because weaving thrives on combining variable quantities, textures, and weights of yarn. Happiness awaits you...



Weaving around a Salish Sea stone lets you swatch your yarn. I wove this throw with odds and ends from my stash.



100s of rabbits live above South Beach, where you can collect Salish Sea stones.

Weaving, like knitting, floods one with that oh so familiar balm of well-being.

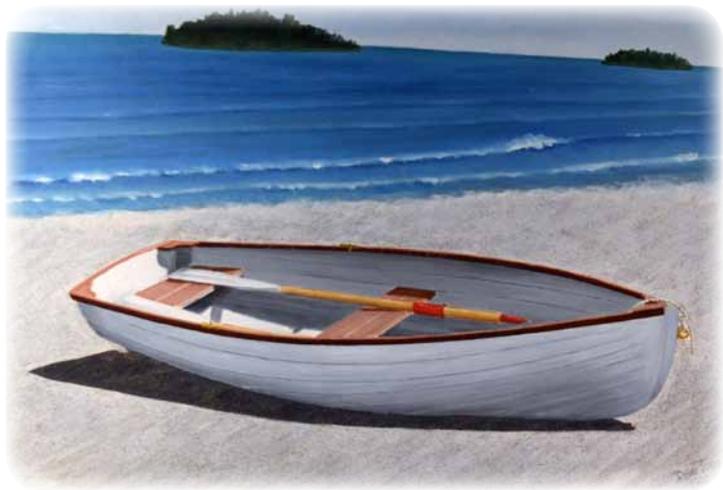
Similar to my Island Knitting Retreats, but limited to 18 people each, these new retreats invite you to escape to a beautiful Pacific Northwest island with amazing meals and my personalized instruction. A friendly 15-inch rigid heddle loom will be yours to use the entire retreat. In each of the four 2017 retreats, everyone was warped and weaving before lunch on the first morning!

As days go by, I'll share a treasure chest of simple manipulations that produce intricate variations, as well as ways to merge woven and knitted fabric. When I demonstrate how to knit from any edge or surface of handwoven cloth, knitters gasp with disbelief that it can be that easy, and it is music to my ears! I also teach a number of tricks I have devised myself, such as how to make your warp behave to the very end, how to wind on without help, and much more.

My collection of weaving books, tools, and intriguing gadgets will be available for your exploration, so you can identify your preferences. I strongly urge you not to buy a loom before coming, because you, like those in our first year, may be surprised by your preferences. If you fall in love with weaving, you can purchase a rigid heddle loom like those we use, including all basic accessories, for less than \$200 at our local Island Wools (and they will ship it to you for free).

Our relaxing retreats anchor a strong sense of community.

We may spend a little time each day knitting or weaving in communal silence, letting the deep wellspring of tranquility that lies within our harmonious hands fill the room. Participants often comment that the retreat has been one of the best weeks of their life.



The retreat fee is \$500, plus an equipment loan/ materials fee of \$125. I provide a plentiful supply of colorful worsted weight cotton yarn for learning and exploration, along with some natural colored wool. Your carefree learning experiments will become practical, beautiful dish towels, placemats, napkins, knitting bags, or even felted woolen slipper soles, and you will receive some of my original patterns as well as a PDF of tips and tricks.

Lodging at the island Inn: Please see the separate PDF, Island Inn Room Guide, for detailed descriptions of the lodging choices, ranging from \$123 for a single, to \$312 for a shared penthouse.



Chef Deb's food is divine. Lunch might be mushroom barley soup, green salad, fresh breads, artisan cheeses, and a lightly dressed chicken salad with dried cherries and toasted almonds. Dinner might be cedar plank salmon, roasted broccolini, cider-glazed root vegetables, wild rice pilaf, and creme bruleé. The catering fee is \$220.

To register, email me at cat@catbordhi.com to ask if the retreat date you prefer has space. If the answer is yes, then I'll ask you to print and fill out the registration form on page 8 and send it to me along with your deposit to reserve your spot. *The balance is due 3 months before your retreat begins.* I sincerely hope to see you at one of our 2018 retreats—either these weaving retreats or my traditional knitting retreats—to share the beautiful island with you and enjoy getting to know you.

In the spirit of our beautiful, generous, and wise hands,

Cat

How to travel to Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, Washington



Mount Baker looms into view as the ferry passes Lopez Island. The well-lit boats are great for knitting and jigsaw puzzles, with several half-done puzzles waiting for the next traveler to sit down and continue. Or you can walk laps inside or outside. I love our ferries.

Washington State Ferries

Current schedule for Anacortes-San Juan ferry: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>

If bringing a car on board, *please be sure to make a round-trip reservation well ahead of time.*

Driving

If driving, remember that your ferry reservation is nullified if you are not through the ticket booth 30 minutes ahead of the sailing. It takes about 2 hours to drive directly from the airport to Anacortes, longer if there is traffic. To find your way with GPS, use 2100 Ferry Terminal Road, Anacortes. Otherwise GPS may foolishly send you on another ferry via Whidbey Island, so beware! Once off the ferry, walk or drive to the left, just past the circle at the bottom of Spring Street, and you are there.

Island Airporter

John Nash, whose daughter Caitlin was my seventh-grade student and is mentioned in the acknowledgments of my first book, *Socks Soar on Two Circular Needles*, runs this shuttle directly between Friday Harbor and the Seattle-Tacoma Airport from Monday through Saturday. See www.islandairporter.com for more information and then call John at (360) 378-7438.

Bellair Charters Airporter Shuttle

This service offers 12 roundtrips daily between Seatac (Seattle-Tacoma Airport) and the Anacortes Ferry Terminal. Current schedules and rates are available at www.airporter.com/shuttle. Make sure to allow an hour between the scheduled arrival time of the shuttle and the ferry's departure, in case the shuttle runs into traffic.

Kenmore Air

For those who love to fly (and see beautiful sights!), Kenmore Air offers both land and sea plane services. Those traveling by land plane are shuttled between Seattle-Tacoma Airport and Boeing Field. Sea plane travelers are shuttled from Seattle-Tacoma Airport to Lake Union and land in the Friday Harbor Marina. Current schedules as well as reservation information can be found at www.kenmoreair.com. Before making reservations, make sure to coordinate your arrival and departure from Seatac with Kenmore's schedule, allowing enough time to collect your baggage.

Registration for 2018 Island Weaving for Knitters Retreats with Cat Bordhi

Retreats are held at Lakedale Lodge in Friday Harbor, Washington

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____

Emergency contact: _____

To reserve a spot, first contact me at cat@catbordhi.com to ask if there is space. Then print and fill out this page and mail it to me with a check for \$150, *made out to Passing Paws Press, Inc.*

Cat Bordhi
PO Box 2463
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

The \$150 nonrefundable deposit holds your space. However, you may transfer your deposit if you need to cancel *and can find a replacement yourself.* The balance of \$475 (\$350 retreat fee balance and \$125 equipment loan/ materials fee) is due 3 months prior to the retreat. It is nonrefundable unless I can fill your spot from my wait list or you find a replacement yourself.



Circle your dates below, *and I thank you for also writing them on your check:*

#1 March 4-9 #2 March 11-16 #3 March 18-23 #4 April 8-13

Lodging: Once you register, phone The Island Inn at 360-378-4400 to reserve your accommodations. If you would to share a Sweet or Penthouse with someone, let the Inn know and they will add you to a list of people wishing to share. Arrival is Sunday afternoon/evening, and departure is Friday morning. No activities are scheduled for Sunday or Friday, because they are travel days. Sunday dinner is on your own.

Meals: The Island Inn provides breakfast. One month before the retreat, please mail Deb Nolan, our lunch and dinner kitchen magician, a \$220 check (made out to her) along with the form on the next page. Deb's address is: Deb Nolan, POB 358, Friday Harbor WA 98250

Personal Liability and Indemnification Agreement: I take your safety and the security of your belongings very seriously, but I cannot be liable for any personal injury, loss/theft or damage any time during the retreat. Your attendance constitutes your agreement to indemnify Cat Bordhi and Passing Paws Press, Inc, from any claim for injury, loss, or damage for any reason. You are responsible for any damage to retreat property, facilities, or equipment caused by you through negligence or willful intent.



Please initial here: _____

Cat's email: cat@catbordhi.com

Please send this form and your \$220 check to our master-chef, Deb Nolan at least 30 days prior to our retreat. Thank you!

Mail this form and your check to:

Deb Nolan
PO Box 358
Friday Harbor, WA 98250



the dates you are attending, and also write them on your check:

#1 March 4-9 #2 March 11-16 #3 March 18-23 #4 April 8-13

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Deb is an instinctive, creative, and gifted chef who cooks as passionately as we knit.

Her sumptuous meals have been delighting, inspiring, and nourishing our knitters for years. She is happy to design meals around the food preferences and allergies listed below (please check any that apply to you). *If you require a more specialized diet*, we ask that you please reserve one of Island Inn's accommodations which have kitchens, so that you can prepare your own meals.

- I am a vegetarian.
- I am a vegan.
- I am allergic to gluten.
- I am allergic to dairy.
- I am allergic to shellfish.
- I am allergic to nuts.

Deb describes her cuisine:

It brings me a lot of joy to prepare delicious, creative meals for those attending Cat's retreats. I feel my style of cooking is best described as a Mediterranean Diet, influenced by my life travels and experiences. The meals center around a variety of seasonally fresh and locally grown produce, beans and nuts, healthy grains, olive oil, varied proteins (seafood, poultry, pork, and lamb), seasoned with fresh herbs and spices, house made soups and salad dressings, and small decadent desserts.