

Kate Larson

Workshops for Greater Los Angeles Spinning Guild

April 27–29, 2018

### **Workshop Descriptions and Details**

#### Spinning Sound Singles Yarns - Friday morning (half-day)

A singles yarn is, by its very nature, unbalanced. Twist is typically added to these yarns in one direction, but never balanced with plying. Why spin a singles yarn? They give us unique color blending options, interesting texture, and maximize our spinning time. Singles yarns can have drawbacks, such as decreased durability, over-twist, and reduced loft. By better understanding twist, exploring techniques, and no-fuss sampling, we can spin useful, beautiful, sound singles yarns.

- Skills needed: Ability to spin and ply a basic yarn.
- Participant to bring: A spindle or working wheel, extra bobbins, and lazy kate.

#### Spinning Luxury Blends - Friday afternoon (half-day)

Cashmere, camel, silk, and yak—the range of prepared luxury fibers we modern spinners have at our fingertips would astound our textile predecessors. Today, we often find these fibers in blends—merino and cashmere, silk and yak, the enticing list goes on and on. These blends often combine fibers with very different characteristics. How we spin silk is typically different from how we might spin yak—how should we spin a blend of the two? This workshop will introduce you to a variety of luxury blends and methods to spin these special fibers to get the yarns you want.

- Skills needed: Ability to spin and ply a basic yarn.
- Participant to bring: A spindle or working wheel, extra bobbins, and lazy kate. You will need handcards for this class—some will be available to borrow.

#### All About Locks! Saturday afternoon (half-day)

Spinning straight from a wool staple, or lock, is a fun and easy way to go from washed fleece to a perfectly prepared fiber in seconds. Practice plucking locks from fine, medium, down-type, longwool, and primitive fleeces. Learn to wash fleece in small batches, effectively join and hold locks for different spinning methods, adjust your wheel, and blend colors.

- Skills needed: Ability to spin and ply a basic yarn.
- Participant to bring: A spindle or working wheel, extra bobbins, and lazy kate. You will need handcards for this class—some will be available to borrow.

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### **Workshop Descriptions and Details (cont.)**

Gradient Yarns: A Spinner's Study in Shifting Shades – Sunday morning (half-day)

"Gradient: the relative increase or decrease in the magnitude of a property."

Yarns with long color changes that shift slowly from one end of the skein to the other are a great spinner's challenge. There are many ways to design a gradient handspun yarn without using a dye pot. Join us as we explore four different methods for keeping colors distinct using painted tops, dyed batts, and a few blending tricks.

- Skills needed: Ability to spin and ply a basic yarn.
- Participant to bring: A spindle or working wheel, extra bobbins, and lazy kate. You will need handcards for this class—some will be available to borrow.
- Materials fee: \$15.

How Much Fiber Do I Need? Weights and Measures for Spinners.- Sunday afternoon (half-day)

A constant lament heard at fiber festivals is the difficulty of deciding how many ounces of a fiber to purchase for a project. When spinners ask for advice, they are often frustrated to hear, "It depends!" Come learn why this question is complex and what tools you need to find the answer. We will discuss yarn design, spinning methods, grist, and more. You will leave class with your own personalized reference chart for a variety of fibers and yarn types spun in class.

- Skills needed: Ability to spin and ply a basic yarn.
- Participant to bring: A spindle or working wheel, extra bobbins, and lazy kate. You will need handcards for this class—some will be available to borrow.