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# homes

NATIONAL COTTON CANDY DAY

## Lynn Bloch combines two loves for new Knitting Romance shop in Ellettsville

By Jackie Finch  
JackieSFinch@gmail.com

When Lynn Bloch was a little girl, her grandmother taught her how to crochet. "And I have been hooked ever since," Lynn says.

Years later, Lynn taught herself how to knit. She also developed a fondness for another type of "yarns" – stories told in books.

"More recently, I got drawn into the romance book world and fell in love with it," she says.

But Lynn had no idea how those two affinities would one day be combined in the new business she opened in Ellettsville on Oct. 17.

With a name like "Knitting Romance," the shop carries both yarn and novels. "I think it is the only bookstore in Ellettsville," Lynn says. "I know it is the only yarn store in Ellettsville."

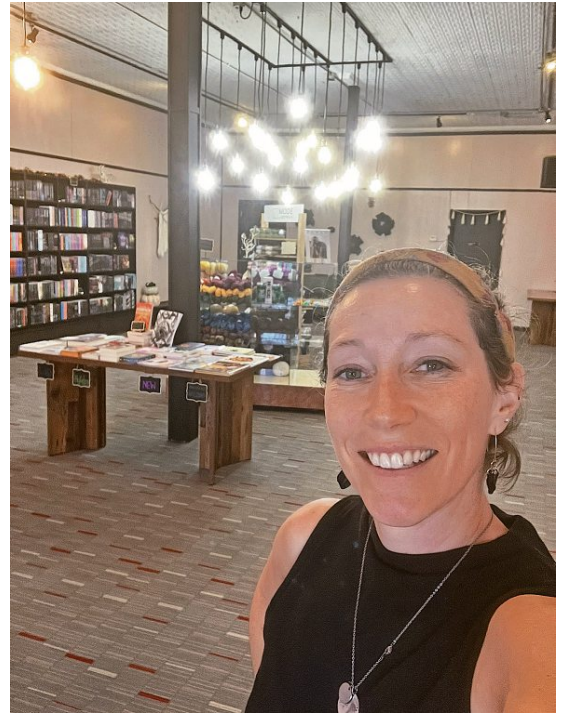
Right now, Lynn says her shop carries mostly romance books as well as children's books. But she is currently in the process of expanding the book collection.

"I get the majority of books from a wholesale company named Ingram. I also get books



Knitting Romance opened Oct. 17 in Ellettsville. COURTESY PHOTO / LYNN BLOCH

directly from self-published authors." **More readers of all ages today**



Lynn combined knitting and book reading in her new shop. COURTESY PHOTO / LYNN BLOCH

Reading picked up considerably when people were isolated because of COVID, Lynn says. "I think COVID made a lot of people realize we needed to

slow down. There is just something magical about getting lost in a book."

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Lynn works in her new Knitting Romance shop. COURTESY PHOTO / DARBE ALLISON

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Lynn says her reading became even more important when she and her husband Eric moved to Northern California for his schooling. Eric is now a chemistry professor at Indiana University.

"I had a really hard time being that far from home. I picked up the 'Twilight' book by Stephenie Meyer and was drawn into the fantasy world. It really helped me during that difficult time," Lynn says.

"I remember being so excited when the new books came out, and rushing to get them," she says, adding that among her favorite authors are Rebecca Yarros, Aimee Vance and Brynne Weaver. "It's hard to choose really."

This year, Lynn is participating in a contest to see if she can read her height in books. Living halfway between Bloomington and Ellettsville, Lynn says she and her son 3-year-old David have made the local library "a fun second home."

### Historic Ellettsville building is great home for new shop

Ironically, Lynn says, the building at 123 N. Sale St.



The new shop has a wide variety of yarn and romance novels. COURTESY PHOTO / DARBE ALLISON

that now houses her Knitting Romance shop was once a branch library. "I'm not sure what was in the building directly before me but I did just see an article about the building being home to the Ellettsville branch library in 1968 and a grocery store before that," she says.

"I love historic buildings that are full of character," she says. "It has amazing tall ceilings and has such a wonderful

feel when you walk in. The neighborhood is cozy and local people have been warm and inviting."

Although she had never owned a store before, Lynn says that her parents - Sandy and David Noegel - were a great help in preparing Knitting Romance for customers.

"My parents owned a small

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Pickles on left and Elmer, the family dogs COURTESY PHOTO / LYNN BLOCH



Lynn with her husband Eric, son David and parents Sandy and David Noegel in the doorway of her shop. COURTESY PHOTO / DARBE ALLISON



Reggie the family sheep COURTESY PHOTO / LYNN BLOCH



A wide variety of yarn is offered at Knitting Romance. COURTESY PHOTO / DARBE ALLISON



Lynn has been a longtime knitter. COURTESY PHOTO / LYNN BLOCH



Books are organized for shoppers. COURTESY PHOTO / DARBE ALLISON

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engine sales and repair business – Barton Small Engine – in Wisconsin that my brother just took over," Lynn says.

"It has been a learning experience figuring out where and how to get books, yarn and accessories," she says. "It has also been amazing seeing people get excited about the store."

#### Family menagerie

Growing up in Wisconsin, Lynn's childhood ambition was to become a veterinarian. She became a veterinarian nurse and still tends to family animals.

"I actually was a veterinary technician/veterinary nurse for 20 years before having my son," she says. "I have always been drawn to caring for animals. We currently have two dogs, one cat, two sheep, two cows, 19 chickens, three ducks and honeybees."

#### Future Knitting Romance plans

"There is something

magical about knitting and crocheting. You are creating something and that is really special," Lynn says.

Knitting Romance carries a wide range of yarn and tools in various prices for knitters

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Lynn with some books for her shop. COURTESY PHOTO / LYNN BLOCH



The historic building has high ceilings. COURTESY PHOTO / DARBE ALLISON



Logo designed by Lynn and her husband Eric COURTESY PHOTO / DARBE ALLISON



Lily the family sheep COURTESY PHOTO / LYNN BLOCH



Herbie the family cat and the honey bees COURTESY PHOTO / LYNN BLOCH

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and crocheters. "There is something for everyone," Lynn says. "From beginners to advanced knitters and crocheters."

Future plans include offering classes and gatherings for both books and needlework. "I am currently lining up teachers for beginners and advance project classes for crocheting and knitting," she says.

"I also plan to have yarn nights - sort of 'knit togethers' - and book nights where people with a shared interest can come and hang out," Lynn says.

Most importantly, Lynn says, she hopes that Knitting Romance will provide a place where people can come together.

"Both yarn stores and book stores offer a place for community. I hope that people walk in and feel at home," she says.

"I think there is always a want for yarn and books and they both contribute to positive mental health and offer a unique opportunity for friendships and community."

For more information: Visit Knitting Romance at 124 N. Sale St. in Ellettsville or at [facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579900493933](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579900493933)