

TO OUR WONDERFUL SKEIN LANE COMMUNITY

Are you ready for Stitches West 2006, February 16-19? We are getting so excited as we plan our booth for the show. Please visit us at Booth 304 - 308.

NEW YARNS ARRIVE DAILY

We will debut cool new yarns at the show....you must come. There will be new textures and colors. We will then be adding these new yarns....yes, it's a surprise until Stitches...to our shop after Stitches.

HOT PROJECT

This month's hot project is being knit by staff, Ellen. She is knitting the blanket/shawl, Cavendish, featured in *Simply NORO* by Jane Ellison, and the yarn that Ellen has chose is Noro's Silver Thaw, 50% wool, 25% angora, and 25% nylon. The pattern is a basket weave with a row of garter in between. It is a sonderfully meditative pattern, but different enough to keep you interested. We are all wanting to snuggle up in it. Come see this blanket in progress in our booth at Stitches West 2006 and back here at the shop.

LEARNING @ SKEIN LANE

We have some exciting classes planned for February and March.

First up is special guest Maggie Jackson, from Ireland, on February 3-5. She will be at Skein Lane for a [Wine, Cheese & Fashion Show](#) on Friday, February 3, and a one-day workshop, [Beyond the Scarf with Maggie Jackson](#) on your choice of February 4 or 5. There's still space for you to attend one or both of these exciting events. Follow the links for all the details.

[Melissa Leapman](#), knit and crochet designer, will be at Skein Lane on March 4 & 5. We will offer four exciting classes: Basic Pattern Drafting, Crochet for Cowards, Nifty Necklines and Celtic Cables. All are three-hour classes. If you are not familiar with Melissa's work, check out her latest books, *Hot Knits* and *Cool Crochet*, available at Skein Lane. She is a dynamic teacher whose designs are simple and fashionable.

We are excited to offer you some new ways to apply your skills - in [Freeform Knitting](#) and [Freeform Crochet](#) in March, taught by our friend Mayra. She is passionate about freeform work, and will show you how to create exciting three-dimensional freeform textures with your own personal style - using yarn and skills you already have. Mayra's enthusiasm and love of textures and colors is contagious.

There was an overwhelming response to our January Beginning Crochet class with Sandy Lee. That tells us we need to schedule another one soon! If you are among the scores of people who want to learn crochet, please contact the shop to be notified of the date for Sandy's next class. Call 510.525.9276.

Carolyn's Spring series of [Knitting Workshop](#) will start again in the first week of April. Sign up early, as the workshops fill quickly.

YARN EVENTS

A correction about the Skein Lane booth location at Stitches West: we will be in booths 304, 306 & 308.

Our previous newsletters and some coupons said booth 303. If you go to 303, we won't be there - so walk across the aisle to Skein Lane at booths 304-308! You can't miss us - we are on the same island as the XRX Publications booth, near the entrance to the hall.

Stitches is less than two weeks away and Skein Lane can help you get ready... Visit our website to print your own [coupon for \\$2 off market admission](#), [driving directions](#) to the Santa Clara Convention Center and information about the [Stitch-N-Ride train](#) offered by Amtrak's Capitol Corridor.

Market hours are Friday & Saturday, 10am-6pm, and Sunday 10am-4pm. If you have enrolled in classes, you can attend a market preview on Thursday night, 7-9pm. There are lots of other events

throughout the weekend; for a complete list, see the XRX website [Schedule of Events](#). Some events are free, and others require advance registration, such as the new one hour Market Sessions. If you want to see the latest styles and learn what's coming in knitting, visit the Style Show Preview, on Saturday at noon, and the Trends Forecast session on Sunday at noon. Check your program for the location of these events. Gra a friend and join the fun!

If you aren't in the spirit of Stitches yet, check out [XRX Publications](#) website. Visit the [Stitches Pics & Vids](#) page to see images of last year's Stitches events, along with some news coverage about the show. Keep a smile on your face while you are at Stitches – you may end up with your photo on their website for Stitches 2006!

Yet another reason to visit Skein Lane booth is to meet and greet [Christine Bylsma](#), knitwear designer, instructor and our 2005 Knitter's Retreat guest instructor. Chris will be in our booth to show her patterns and to admire your work. Carolyn led a knit-along last fall on Saturdays, to make Chris Bylsma's design for the "Saturday Morning Jacket." A group of knitters met on Saturday mornings, to make their own version of this great casual cardigan. Some of them will join us at the booth on Saturday, February 17 at Noon to for a group photo with Chris and to show off the wonderful fabric they created.

SKEIN LANE KNOW HOW

Zip It Up!

In last month's Hot Project, our [Dressed Up Vest](#) design features a fabulous rhinestone zipper for the closure. If you have never added a zipper to your knitting, this is a great project to learn on.

Get Ready

Zippers must be hand-sewn using a sharp needle - do not machine sew for this. But don't be intimidated by this - the sewing is very simple and Skein Lane staff can walk you through it.

Use regular sewing thread for this: you'll need thread that matches your knitting yarn very closely and some contrasting thread for basting. The opening on your knitting should be the same length as the zipper, so that the seam does not stretch or pucker.

Get Set

The edges that will have the zipper attached need to be smooth and lay flat. There are several ways to accomplish this. *Vogue Knitting* recommends including a two-stitch garter selvedge edge for attaching the zipper. If you have not knit this in, don't despair, you can create a "zipper band". Pick up and knit stitches along the edge for the zipper - pick up & knit 3 stitches for every 4 so you don't create too much fabric. Knit 2 rows and bind off using purl 2 together bind-off. You can also do a simple slip stitch crochet edge on each side where the zipper will go. The goal is simply to create a nice flat edge with a groove where you will later work backstitch to attach your zipper.

Sew!

Should you need a demonstration of basting, whip-stitching or backstitch, please ask us at the shop.

1. Working on the right side of the work and with the zipper closed, pin the zipper into place (pinning at about every inch). The edges of the knit fabric pieces should cover the teeth of the zipper and meet at the center. If they do not and are a little off, you can baste the fronts of your sweater together with contrasting knitting yarn before pinning the zipper in.
2. On the right side, baste the zipper using the contrasting thread. Remove the pins.
3. Turn the work to the wrong side and using the matching thread, whip stitch the zipper in place.
4. Turn the work to the right side and backstitch in place. Do the stitching in the groove between the first and second stitches from the edge of the fabric. Or, if you have done a garter stitch "zipper band" as described in Get Set, stitch in the groove between the garter ridges.

5. Repeat for the other side of the piece.

6. Enjoy your zippered knitwear!

Do you have a knitting time-saver? Got a hot crochet tip? Share your know how with other Skein Laners! Submit your tip or other helpful hint for knit or crochet by email to info@skeinlane.com. If our staff chooses your tip for the newsletter, we'll mention your name with gratitude and even give you a prize.

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