

# In The Loop

## TO OUR WONDERFUL SKEIN LANE COMMUNITY

It's March and once again...another month has flown right by. I've just finished writing up some thoughts about Stitches West...an exciting event that rather consumes February.

As you some of you may have already heard 1824 cotton and wool from Mission Falls are back. You will find the 1824 cotton on our shelves very soon. We've also added another wonderful cotton to our offerings – Nautical Cotton from Louisa Harding. It has a good twist and a lovely array of color selection.

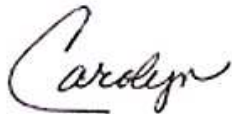
Socks continue to be “hot”. A very satisfying portable project with new yarns available all the time. We are expecting some new sock yarns the first of March. Felting also continues to be very popular. Did you see Nicky Epstein's display of felted bags at Stitches? They were stunning. You can look forward to seeing her book at Skein Lane soon.

We are adding more classes to our lineup – check upcoming events listed below.

And let's not forget that Melissa Leapman will be here this weekend. There is still time to sign up for one of her wonderful classes.

Again, I have to thank my wonderful staff and customers for the unending support during this time of more illness. Bill's surgery was successful and he is now in the process of regaining his strength. I am slowly coming back in the shop more and glad to be seeing all.

My best,



## NEW YARNS ARRIVE DAILY

Some of the new yarns that we introduced at Stitches include Diva's Tesseo, Butterfly, and Hip Hop; Cascade 109LE; On Line Supersocke Cotton; and Schaefer's Patty and Andrea – 2 different weights of 100% cultivated silk.

## HOT PROJECT

This month's hot project is being knit by Carolyn. It is the Bay Tank knit in Missions Falls 1824 Cotton. The simple style includes a lace design that makes it elegant.

## LEARNING @ SKEIN LANE

We have some exciting classes and events planned for March and April.

[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. Sandy's next [Beginning Crochet](#) class is scheduled for two Sunday mornings, 10-noon on March 19 & 26.

JP joins us again for more class offerings..this time as an expectant mother. Her two upcoming classes are [The Tomten Jacket](#) for a baby or toddler and [Baby Booties](#) with JP's own pattern. We hope all expectant mothers and grandmothers can join JP for these exciting classes.

And for those of us who want to learn weaving, Louisa Burgio is back with her ever popular Intro to [Rigid Heddle Weaving](#).

As reported in our last newsletter, 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

[Fiber Feast](#) set for March 19. Join us once again for a fiber feast here at the shop. We look forward to serving up more appetizers, entrees, and desserts of yarn for you. There is a \$5.00 registration fee redeemable on your next Skein Lane purchase.

## Stitches West 2006

### [Our friend Kimberly helping customers at Stitches West](#)

Stitches starts for us several weeks ahead of the actual event as we get ready with models for the fashion show and the plan and product for the booth. We set up on Thursday to open for business for the Student Preview Market on Thursday evening. The show opened to the public for the weekend on Friday morning. The knitting and crocheting creativity levels were high - the event was full of great enthusiasm and energy.

Skein Lane entered three garments in the Friday night fashion show: the Sonoma Shawl design from Oat Couture knit and embellished by Carolyn; the Jeweled Zipper vest designed and knit by Carolyn; and the Celtic Plait Aran pullover from Countrywool and knit by Ellen.

On Saturday morning, the TV camera crew came through with Shay Pendray of Shay Pendray Needlearts, Inc. and Rick Mondragon of XRX. The crew stopped at several booths and several shots were filmed in Skein Lane's booth. I look forward to seeing the Sonoma Shawl as one of the features on the final cut scheduled to air in April on Shay's Sunday afternoon needlework show. Darrius Johnson, customer and friend of Skein Lane, was also "captured" on film with his year-old goddaughter. Darrius learned to knit at Stitches about three years ago and almost instantly became an avid knitter.

At noon on Saturday, Chris Bylsma, the designer of the [Saturday morning jacket](#), joined Skein Lane knitters who knit the jacket as a knitalong at the shop. Each sweater was very different and striking.

As a vendor at Stitches, we don't get to see the market through the same eyes as those who come to market and classes. We are busy with our booths and walk the floor some, even purchase some things, but I have heard from customers about products that I missed. I did manage to add some things to my knitting collection: a beaded scarf kit from Swallow Hill Creations, a beautiful shawl pin, more beads to add to a shawl, some knitting software, and a book on the color of red. Now, who could believe that it would be so exciting to read about a color, but "*A Perfect Red*", by Amy Butler Greenfield, caught my attention. To quote the cover,

“..... the colorful history of cochineal, a legendary red dye that was once one of the world’s most precious commodities.” Staff and customers have returned with new knitting techniques, i.e. shaping with darts, Japanese short rows, improved collars, and more that I will be mentioning soon.

During the busy show, I was able to touch base with our future line up of teachers: Melissa Leapman, Nancy Bush, Sally Melville, Maggie Jackson, and Nicky Epstein.

It has been great fun to hear from our customers about their Stitches experiences. Everyone has returned with renewed knitting and crocheting creativity energy. It will be a joy to see these new projects evolve over the next several months.

### **SKEIN LANE KNOW HOW**

A tip from PJ. It happens to all of us. Sometimes there is nothing to do but rip down several rows of knitting in order to get back on track. When this happens, use a needle at least 2 sizes smaller than the one you are using for your project to put the stitches back on a needle. This puts less strain on the row of stitches you are picking up, eliminating dropped stitches. Just remember - when you have finished picking up the row of stitches, begin knitting with the needles you were using for your project.

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](mailto: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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