

In The Loop



The Newsletter of the Skein Lane Community

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Carolyn's Update

Happy New Year Skein Laners!

The winter rainstorms of this past week make me happy that I have been knitting socks. I'm just completing a new pair made from Claudia's handpaints...and it is just heavenly to knit. And then I got possessed and been finishing the mates for the other 4 pairs that I have in process. The knitting workshops for

Winter 2006 are underway and it's an exciting time to be focusing on new projects or ones that we have put aside while knitting for the Christmas holidays.

We are looking forward an exciting first quarter of 2006....Maggie Jackson of Irish Knits will be here February 3-5, Stitches in Santa Clara February 16-19, and Melissa Leapman early March.

And most importantly, again thank you for your continued stitching enthusiasm and creativity. It's exciting to see each of you with your many and varied projects.

My best,

Exciting News!

- **Maggie Jackson** will teach at Skein Lane on February 4 & 5, 2006
- **Melissa Leapman** has confirmed to teach at Skein Lane on March 4 & 5, 2006
- **Sally Melville** has confirmed to teach at Skein Lane on November 17 & 18, 2006

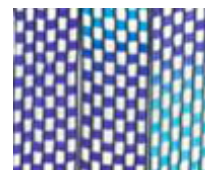
Contact the shop for notification about the class topics and times, when scheduled.

New Yarns Arrive Daily

One of our most fabulous new yarns is **Claudia Handpaint Yarns** from Virginia. These hand-dyed yarns are breathtaking. We are featuring the lace weight mohair that is beautiful and the fingering weight merino that is similar to Koigu KPPM. It's selling fast, so please come in and choose yours soon. Give us your

feedback about these new yarns - and show us what you've made!

We also received a good supply of the cool extra-wide railroad ribbon, **Eros Extreme**. Also just in, Laurel Hill straight needles made from palmwood; they are as strong and light as they are beautiful.



Hot Projects

This month's project is a snazzy little zippered vest created by Carolyn as a gift for her niece this past Christmas. It combines some of our favorite fibers in a quick knit that will look great and keep you toasty too.

Carolyn was inspired by a customer to create her own unique fabric by knitting together three of our nicest

yarns: black Cascade 220 wool, black Fine Kid (Anny Blatt), and Southwest Trading company's metallic Shimmer.

Then, to take it over the top, she made a collar out of Jaeger's Fur. We hope you will like it, make one and feel great in it.

We're just writing up the pattern for you to make your own, visit our website

at <http://www.skeinlane.com/knittingresources/patterns.htm> soon to print your copy of the pattern, or stop by the shop. 

Did you know?

Skein Lane has been serving the Bay Area's knitters and crocheters with inspiring yarns and classes for more than 9 years.

Learning at Skein Lane

Skein Lane Demo Series

**Every Saturday
3 p.m.**

**Learn a handy new
skill every week!**

**Visit our website for
the topics and
schedule.**

<http://www.skeinlane.com/news/minidemo.htm>

January 2006 is loaded with great classes to expand your skills - are you ready to learn?

Beginning Crochet returns on January 22 & 29. The Sweater Design Series will start again on January 23. Our socks class is being rescheduled soon, check the website for the new date. In March, we will have our first Freeform Knitting and Freeform Crochet classes. We'll also be presenting guest designer, Melissa Leapman for a workshop of two. As always, you can get the details about all our classes on our website Class pages.

We also have several knitting groups going on. For those who would like to

join a relaxed knitting group during the week, join Kathryn's Knitting Circle. Long-time knitter and friend of the shop, Kathryn can answer your knitting questions while you enjoy a cozy knitting group. The Great American Aran Afghan Block Party will meet again in 2006, to continue making Aran knit squares to be made into a beautiful afghan. The group meets every third Wednesday of the month, starting January 18. And our Teen Knit Club has been meeting every other Saturday for several months; all teenagers are welcome to join.

There is still room in the morning sessions of the Winter Knitting Workshop. This is our ten-week series led by Carolyn, where she

helps knitters of all levels complete their projects, learn new things and enjoy the camaraderie of knitting friends. We started in the first week of January, and you could still join the Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday morning sessions. And there's always next session. We'll announce the dates for the Spring Knitting Workshop soon.

As always, all the details about these classes is available on our website, www.skeinlane.com



Yarn Events

This year at Stitches West 2006, you'll find a new feature, free demonstrations. Sponsored by several manufacturers, the demonstrations will be led by talented local instructors, including one of our own, Ellen Graves. While at the show, check the schedule and listen for

announcements about these mini-classes. Coming soon, we will have at the shop discount coupons for admission to the market and directions for getting you to the show. See you for all the fun that is Stitches West, February

16-19. Visit www.knittinguniverse.com for information about the show and XRX Publications.

See you for all the fun that is Stitches West, February 16-19.



Skein Lane-Booth 303
Santa Clara
Convention Center

Maggie Jackson Is Coming



Skein Lane is proud to introduce Maggie Jackson's

beautiful yarns, MK Collection. Maggie's innovative, contemporary designs are created with her unique yarns. Among the fibers we carry are Maggie's cotton, linen,

alpaca, mohair, mohair loop, mist slub and wool slub. We have a wide range of colors for you to choose from, along with several of Maggie's wonderful design collections.

Skein Lane is also pleased to welcome Maggie Jackson to our shop for a trunk show and

workshops, February 3-5. On Friday, February 3, we will have a wine, cheese and fashion reception with Maggie, and view her latest designs. On February 4 & 5, we will have workshops with Maggie. We are still selecting the workshops to be offered and if you'd like to be notified about the topics, please contact the

shop. They will not be the same classes as she will do at Stitches West later in February. Class space is limited, so contact the shop to be notified of all the information.

If you would like to learn more about Maggie, visit her website at: www.maggiknits.com.



Skeinlane know how... Hand Wash Doesn't Mean Hard Work

Don't avoid the hand wash symbol when making fiber choices for your projects. You can hand wash in a basin or sink, and if you have a washing machine whose cycles you can manually control, cleaning your handmade items is almost as easy as doing your other laundry.

Use no-rinse wool wash products, such as Eucalan, which allow you to gently wash wools and most other types of fibers with ease. Please note: Woolite is not recommended for any hand-knits or crochet items; it was really designed for nylons and other lingerie items.

When you hand wash animal fibers such as wool, just take care not to use very hot or very cold water and do not agitate. Tepid water is best for hand washing.

Here's how:

- Gently fold knit/crochet items and put them into a zippered mesh washing bag.
- Fill machine with plenty of water to cover and wool wash (follow the

product's instructions)

- Load the washables, hold them under the water to allow them to soak up water.
- Leave the items to soak for half an hour to 45 minutes.
- BYPASS AGITATION THE RINSE CYCLE AND MACHINE SPIN THE WATER OUT. Do not allow water to pour directly onto the items.
- Place garments flat to dry and gently shape them. Never hang wet knits.

Aren't the items you've stitched worth it? If you read your yarn label, use the right washing products and wash carefully, your hand knit and crochet items will last longer and always look beautiful.

Contributed by P.J. Rosenthal

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.

Community Corner

OPEN EVERY DAY

SUNDAY	NOON-5 P.M.
MONDAY	10 A.M.-6 P.M.
TUESDAY	10 A.M.-9 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	10 A.M.-6 P.M.
THURSDAY	10 A.M.-9 P.M.
FRIDAY	10 A.M.-6 P.M.
SATURDAY	10 A.M.-6 P.M.



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Website: www.skeinlane.com

Our community project leader, Jane Cavalli, reported that about forty knit helmet liners were made and sent to troops serving overseas in November 2005. The helmet liners are designed to fit under a soldier's helmet to keep them warm, and were made by volunteers who knit and crochet at the shop as part of a community effort.

For troops in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and other areas, it can be very cold at night and in the mountains. These knit and crochet items are a welcome bit of warmth from home.

The helmet liners made by the group were sent to troops in cooperation with the Blue Star Moms, a local and national support and service organization for mothers and families of military service members.

In December 2005, some of the helmet liners were also sent to a small unit of Marine Reservists based in Concord, currently serving in Fallujah, Iraq.

The knitters and crocheters meet at Skein Lane on the first and third Sunday each month to make warm gifts for donation to several kinds of local causes. All are welcome to participate with the group. You may



also contribute helmet liners or hats for the troops by bringing them to Skein Lane.

Visit the Community page to learn more about this project, get the knit or crochet pattern, and our yarn recommendations for making helmet liners. Thanks to Jane, and all the volunteers who knit and crochet for doing all that you do to make others feel special.

See <http://www.skeinlane.com/community/helmetliners.htm> for more information. More information about the Blue Star Moms can be found at www.bluestarmoms.org

About



Skein Lane began as a needlework shop in the 1970s under the ownership of the late Joan Haggerty and the late Peg DeCamp. In 1996, Carolyn Pugh acquired the shop and introduced knitting and crochet supplies to the inventory.

As it happened, interest in creating fine hand-stitched items in knit, crochet and stitchery has blossomed during Carolyn's tenure as owner. And thanks to the positive word-of-mouth generated by our wonderful customers,

business at Skein Lane has grown steadily over the years.

Skein Lane takes pride in offering a large inventory of yarns and fibers of the highest quality. Our customers consistently remark that we have a wider variety and selection of yarn, needles, notions and books than at other stores they've visited.

Our goals are to always bring our customers the most inspiring selection of yarns along

with the best customer service available. Through demonstrations, classes and expert advice, our staff can help you create beautiful handmade items.

New generations of knitters and crocheters are learning every day. Adults of all ages come to us to re-learn and re-connect with their stitching past. All are welcome at Skein Lane and we are proud to be a part of the stitching community.

See you at Stitches West Expo 2006
Santa Clara Convention Center
February 17-19, 2006

Visit www.knittinguniverse.com for all the details.

February 17-19, 2006 Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA

STITCHES WEST EXPO 2006



15 years of Knitting Expos

- ✦ 230 Booth Market
Friday & Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am-4pm
- ✦ Learn to Knit FREE*
Friday - Saturday 1&3pm, Sunday 1pm
- ✦ NEW Market Sessions
Friday-Sunday, check on line for current listings.
- ✦ Grand Prize Drawing
Join us Sunday for the Grand Prize Drawing!
Nearly \$1,500 CASH!
- ✦ FREE* Style Show
Saturday - Noon
- ✦ FREE* Trends Forecast
Sunday - Noon
- ✦ Door Prizes
- ✦ Book Signings
- ✦ Demos

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*With Admission