

In The Loop

March 2007

Dear Skein Lane Community:

I want to begin this newsletter with a tribute to [Sandy Olson](#). Sandy has been a wonderful knitting friend for many of us. She joined our Friday morning knitting group several years ago and just this past week Sandy died. As I think about Sandy and about all that she meant to us, I find myself searching for the right words to honor her life. She was a special ed teacher who taught autistic children. she was very active in her church and in her community, she had many friends, and she knit! Many of us can hear Sandy saying, "It's just luscious, isn't it?" as she felt the yarn in her fingers and on her face. There are many things to remember about Sandy...she was generous....she was loving and caring...and she had many people who loved her. She was so helpful and supportive to me when my family learned that my niece has Asperberger's Syndrome. While we are currently feeling a great deal of sadness, we feel blessed to have known Sandy and to have her spirit with us now.

With Sandy's spirit in mind, I will continue on.

And where has this month gone? The wonderful weather is certainly calling some of us outside to catch up with the lovely yellow flowering weeds that I use to think were so beautiful until they began taking over my landscape. And my knitting is always calling me! [My Nantucket Jacket](#) is finally growing and I have socks galore in process. My [Moderne Baby Blankets](#) continue on for the three little girls in my younger sister's family - two small nieces and the third to be born in June.

Because we have such a wonderful knitting circle, I found myself wanting to read two knitting novels that touch upon the same topic- [Family Tree by Barbara Delinsky](#) and [The Friday Night Knitting Club by Kate Jacobs](#) That reading/research certainly allowed me to collect some sun rays. Both novels made me feel as though we have something really special in each of our knitting circles.

There are two fellow knitting retailer items that I would like to share. Ellen Graves, a former teacher of Skein Lane and now a teacher at Stitches, is embarking on opening a knitting store nearby. She has developed a [questionnaire/survey](#) that we would both like to pass onto you. Ellen comes to the retail world as a passionate "Knitting Master"! Stay tuned to Ellen's [website](#) for her opening date. And Marianne Adams of [The Yarn Boutique](#) has expanded her store by moving to a larger location just a couple city blocks away in Lafayette Fiesta Square. I was there last week and it has a lovely open and warm feeling. Stop by and let Marianne know that I sent you.

And lastly but not least, [Stitches West 2007](#) was held in Santa Clara last month. It was a different experience for me this year...I was a consumer and not a vendor. I was able to be there on Saturday afternoon and enjoy the beauty of the yarns and accessories, see old friends and make new acquaintances. One of the highlights of Stitches for me was to visit [Lisa Souza's](#) booth. I have been a fan of Lisa's for at least 15 years. She is local - Lafayette - and she dyes beautiful hand-dyed knitting yarns. I found that a skein of [Baby Alpaca/Silk](#) magically "landed" in my hands - I believe it was meant to be. So, of course, that skein came home with me!

Classes

Our Spring Session of [Knitting Workshops](#) begin March 20. Call now to reserve a space.

Socks continue to be an obsession for some of us and we will continue on with more sock classes from [Vintage Socks](#), by Nancy Bush. We will offer another [basic sock](#) class in April for those who want to learn to knit socks.

[Beginning Knitting](#) is scheduled for April 9 and 19. If you know someone who is wanting to learn to knit just refer them onto Skein Lane Studio. We are happy to start new knitters.

Two specialty classes are being offered in April - [Ruffled Roses Scarf](#) and [Felting](#).

In our studio setting we have added consultation hours. If you need help you can either call or e-mail for free consultation. You can also schedule an in-person consultation appointment for a fee of \$5.00 for 15 minutes or \$20.00 per hour. We look forward to being able to help you with your knitting opportunities.

Guest Instructors

[Lorna Miser](#) will be with us for class offerings in April and May. Her class ***Easy Tips for Knitting with Hand-Dyed Yarns*** will be especially helpful after Stitches West because I know many of us will most likely have added some of those beautiful hand-dyes to our yarn collections. The other two classes in May also have lots of appeal - ***Sleeves from the Top Down*** and ***Twisted Cord and Other Ties***

Special Events and Future Classes.

Join us for our spring fashion show on May 20 from 1-3pm. Call to register both your garments and your attendance.

Knitting Retreat

The dates for our fall [knitting retreat](#) have been confirmed. Mark your calendars for September 14-16 at Marconi Conference Center. [Chris Bylsma](#) is returning

as our guest instructor. There are two spaces left. Join us! It's lots of fun!

Our [Einstein Coats](#) and [Log Cabin Afghans](#) are either completed or nearing completion. For those in progress, the knitalong is still open during the same time as we knit [The Nantucket Jacket](#). Join us on Saturday afternoons from 2-4pm. The fee is complimentary if the yarn was purchased from Skein Lane or \$5.00.

Customer Projects

Our [customer project page](#) is up and we will continue to add your wonderful photos. If you have photos that you would like to share, please e-mail to skeinlane@aol.com. Be sure to include details of your project, i.e. pattern, yarn and any tips.

Yarn and Product Offerings

New sock yarn for our growing sock obsession has recently arrived in the Studio. Our new additions include [Aktiv Effekt, Fortissima, Step, and Trekking](#).

For those of you looking for Eucalan for washing those handknit garments, we have it in stock. And we have a plentiful supply of Clover 353 markers described under our [Skein Lane Know How](#) section of our February newsletter.

It's exciting that we have a small offering of yarn available in our studio. In addition to our sock yarns, we currently have Cotton Fleece from Brown Sheep, Deco Ribbon and Waikiki (in skein put-up) from Crystal Palace, and other miscellaneous yarns: Silke Tweed, Sock Yarns, and some Novelties...an array of yarn. Call 510.525.9276 or e-mail skeinlane@aol.com if you are looking for any these yarns. You might guess that I have stocked two of my favorites - the cotton fleece and silky wool.

My best and knit on!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn".

SKEIN LANE KNOW HOW

My tip for the month! There really is a reason to have several knitting projects going on. It allows you change needle size and thus reduce knitting stress on your hands. I find that I can only knit on size 2 needles for so long before I feel stress and strain in my hands and my shoulders. Thus, I knit socks for awhile and then I move on to one my projects that is a size 6 or larger needle. And then I can go back to my socks. It really does help! Happy knitting to all.

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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