



December Greetings from Skein Lane,

Can you believe it is December 2005? How is your holiday knitting and crochet coming? Remember, if you need any assistance with your projects Skein Lane is here to help.

NEW YARNS ARRIVE DAILY

We just received lovely colors of Elsebeth Lavold's Angora, Silky Wool and Silky Tweed, along with some beautiful new yarns from Maggi Jackson's line. And we just received a shipment of Crystal Palace favorites for quick holiday knits. We also received a selection of Lorna's Laces sock yarn and Crystal Palace's new Daisy circular needles. A shipment of Blue Heron Yarns has just arrived – beautiful textures and hand-dyed colors in big bundles suitable for gift giving. Another great holiday yarn bundle is the hand-dyed merino/mohair blend from Abstract Yarns. Locally dyed, this beautiful sport weight yarn is a hot new item for knitters.

We've put together our picks of Great Gift ideas for every budget. Visit the [Great Gifts](#) page on our website for more information and see our in-store displays. Of course, the Skein Lane Gift Certificate - available in any amount - is a great way to treat any knitter or crocheter.

To give others some specific ideas about Skein Lane items *you* might like as a gift, we've created a Skein Lane Wish List you can print out, complete and share with others. You never know - you might get exactly what you want from your secret Santa this year. The link for the Wish List is on the [Skein Lane Home page](#) or you can get a copy at the shop.

HOT PROJECTS

Are you ready to wrap up and relax with something cozy and comfortable? An afghan or blanket is a great project to work on over the holidays or give as a gift. If you need ideas for patterns and even kits full of beautiful yarns, come to Skein Lane.

For a solid or multi-color yarn, we recommend Marty's Afghan, in a simple but beautiful basket weave pattern. Carolyn's example is made of the lovely hand-dyed cotton Schaefer Yarn, Laurel. [Get Marty's Afghan pattern on our complimentary patterns page.](#)

We also feature the Memory Afghan, which is made from squares of just about any yarn, seamed together. Lorna Miser, formerly of Lorna's Laces yarns, developed this pattern and we are happy to feature it at Skein Lane. The Memory Afghan makes a great gift, a project for a group to do together, and a way to "scrapbook with yarn." We have created some color-coordinated kits with special yarns to get you started on your



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own Memory Afghan. The Skein Lane staff is happy to help you dream up yours. [Get the Memory Afghan pattern on our complimentary patterns page.](#)

If you would like to pick up a pre-packaged afghan kit, we also have some lovely ones from Colinette and Needful Yarns, just ask us to show you our models.

LEARNING AT SKEIN LANE

We know you don't have a lot of time for classes during the holiday season. That's why we've started the Mini Demo Series - every Saturday at 3 pm we'll teach a handy knitting skill. For instance, this weekend, December 3, the topic is "Starting a New Skein of Yarn." Visit the website for the [Mini Demo schedule and topics.](#)

We've got your holiday knitting covered from head to toe: December's line-up of classes includes J.P.'s Quickie Hat class and Basic Socks. Check our Knitting Class schedule page for the details.

In January, we present the [Beginning Knitting Series - Level 3](#). This 4-week series was developed closely with our students to meet the needs of growing knitters. Building on your previous experience, you will learn more about stitch construction, stitch and pattern design and correcting mistakes. This series will also teach you about fiber, yarn labels, pattern selection and customizing patterns. You'll even start a project that is a wearable garment, such as a sweater, poncho or vest.

Also in January, you can learn how to design your own sweater in Ellen's, 4-week series on [Sweater Design](#). On January 8, Karen will once again present [Moebius Magic](#), those enchanting conundrums popularized in Cat Bordhi's book, *Treasury of Magical Knitting*.

Exciting news! We just confirmed that we will have two very special guest instructors in 2006. On March 4 & 5, 2006, we will present Melissa Leapman, author of *Hot Knits* and *Cool Crochet*. Melissa is an excellent designer and instructor and we look forward to her visit to Skein Lane. Contact the shop to be notified when the class topic(s) are set.

Also exciting is that Sally Melville will return to Skein Lane on November 17 & 18, 2006. We were fortunate to have the author of *The Knit Stitch*, *The Purl Stitch* and now, *Color*, teach at Skein Lane last year. It was one of our most popular events, so we are so excited to welcome her back. Again, contact the shop to be notified when the class topic(s) are finalized.

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YARN EVENTS

We are so excited to announce that the crafty folks of Domino Barn will be at Skein Lane this weekend, December 3 & 4. This is a group of artisans who are offering their beautiful and unique handmade gift items for sale Skein Lane this weekend only.

You'll find handmade photo albums, pottery, wirework, jewelry, decoupage items, bath salts and soaps and much more. See some of these wonderful items on our [website](#).

It's all happening during regular Skein Lane business hours: Saturday, December 3, 10am to 6pm and Sunday, December 4, noon to 5pm.

Have you see the stunning Christmas Quilt on display in the shop window? It is on display through December 6, and was hand-made by two Skein Laners. Best of all, this wonderful quilt is available as a raffle prize to one lucky winner. The proceeds from raffle tickets go to the El Sobrante Rotary Club, and they will do the drawing on January 21 at their annual Crab Feed. Raffle ticket prices are \$2 for one ticket, or 3 tickets for \$5, 6 tickets for \$10 and 12 tickets for \$20. Good luck everyone!

SKEIN LANE KNOW HOW

This month, our tip is in the form of a knitting encouragement for all....

"Lessons can be learned from all mistakes...so no effort is in vain."
Alice Starmore from *Alice Starmore's Book of Fair Isle Knitting*.

"For most knitting problems, there is a cure."
Lee Anderson from *You Knit Unique*.

"One is in this knitting pastime for pleasure, not for toil, anxiety, and doubt, so don't WORRY."
Elizabeth Zimmerman from *Knitting Without Tears*.

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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