



Knitty Couture

Newsletter

Greetings!

We're diving into the new year with a host of events, programs, products and new designs. In this issue, we'll introduce two community programs we hope you'll participate in. In addition, we'll discuss an incoming trunk show, a local producer, and of course, staff picks.

Current Events

Share Your Stash – Knit for Kids!

One of our missions at Knitty Couture is to promote community involvement among our knitters and crocheters through implementations of charity and community programs to benefit local organizations and residents.

We're very excited to announce our first charity program for 2008. In a partnership with **Nurses for Newborns Foundation**, Knitty Couture will launch an ongoing knit drive in which all knitters and crocheters are invited to knit/crochet items for St. Louis and Missouri children. These toys and garments will be distributed by the staff of NFNF to children and families in surrounding Missouri counties.

Here is your opportunity to declutter a bit of your stash. Use up that yarn that's been waiting to get on the needles and knit for kids! We also have a selection of recommended patterns and resources for your project(s), should you need suggestions.

Do you also have yarn to donate? If so, bring it to the shop. Knitty Couture will collect donated yarn for others to knit these charity items with.

Nurses for Newborns Foundation is a St. Louis-based, not-for-profit organization that provides in-home parenting education and healthcare services to mothers and babies in an effort to promote healthy families and children. Servicing 24 counties in Missouri, NFNF reaches out to approximately 4,000 families each year. More information can be found at their website, www.nfnf.org.

We invite you to knit toys, garments, blankets, pillows, caps, gloves, and any other item you feel children, newborns to age 4 years, could need or would like. The sky's the limit. Washable yarn is preferred, but not required, and please do not include buttons on toys.

In This Issue

Current Events

- ❖ Knit for Kids
- ❖ Local Food Drive
- ❖ Rowan Trunk Show
- ❖ Knit Alongs
- ❖ Classes,
Winter/Spring 2008
- ❖ Demonstrations

At the Shop

- ❖ Local Producer
- ❖ Spring/Summer
Lines

What We're Doing

- ❖ On the Needles
- ❖ On Display
- ❖ Staff Picks

Groups

Join us on the following days as others gather to knit, spin and socialize.

Sunday: Open Knit-in,
1:00-6:00pm; Afghan Knit
Along, 2:00-4:00pm

2nd Tuesdays: Spinning
Group, 4:30-7:30pm

Thursday: Pi Shawl Knit
Along, 5:00-8:00pm

Shop Hours

Mon	Closed
Tues	11:00 - 6:00pm
Wed	11:00 - 6:00pm
Thurs	11:00 - 8:00pm
Fri	11:00 - 6:00pm
Sat	11:00 - 6:00pm
Sun	1:00 - 6:00pm

This program will begin immediately and continue for all of 2008. Donated items will be collected by Knitty Couture and given to NFNF for distribution. Together, knitters and crocheters of St. Louis can help local families and children in need.

Please contact us at 314.727.6500 or knit@knittycouture.com for inquiries or additional information.

Local Food Drive

In conjunction with Mardi Gras (Feb. 5th), Knitty Couture will begin collecting food items for the local food drive to benefit Operation Food Search. Visitors will receive 10% off their purchase when they bring in a bag of donated food goods. Please join us in helping to provide food for local families in need. This program will begin Friday, Jan. 25th to Friday, Feb. 8th.

Rowan Trunk Show

Knitty Couture will host a Rowan Trunk Show throughout the months of January, February and March. Highlighting garments from several Rowan pattern books and magazines, five sets of beautifully knitted and crocheted items will be available for viewing at the shop beginning Thursday, Jan. 17th. Each set, consisting of 3-4 garments, will be displayed for a 1.5 week period until the end of March. Come check out the first set: Bridges, Christie, & Celtic.

Knit Alongs

We've begun our Pi Shawl Knit Along, and it is fun. *Lots of fun!* If you're still interested in knitting this classic piece by EZ or would simply like to knit with others, it's not too late. Join us every Thursday evening, 5:00pm – 8:00pm.

The Afghan Knit Along will begin Sunday, Jan. 27th, 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Using Barbara Walker's Learn to Knit Afghan, knitters will have 63 delightful squares to select from to design their afghan. This Knit Along is a fantastic way to try your hands at various knitting techniques such as twisted stitch, mosaic knitting, cabling, lace and more.

Classes

If you've not checked out the new class listing on our website, please do so. Several of the classes that are being offered are two patterns from Knitty.com (i.e., Ice Queen & Quant), socks, and a 1st Sweater class. Upcoming classes for Spring/Summer 2008 may include finishing, pattern reading, crochet, and springwear.

Workshops & Demonstrations

Workshops and demonstrations are "free" classes in which we invite you to the shop every 1st Thursday to learn about specific knitting techniques. In January, we showed knitters what steeking was about. In February, we'll discuss cabling and in March, shaping. If you don't know how to cable but would love to learn (It's soooooo easy), come by.

In our February newsletter, we'll detail our next set of classes, workshops & demonstrations for Spring/Summer 2008. We also encourage you to give suggestions on what you would like us to offer.

At the Shop

Local Producer

Linda Beckley, President of the St. Louis Weavers' Guild, was very gracious in providing us with several of her wonderful products to sell in the shop. Linda is the owner of the Yarn Farm in St. Clair, MO, which houses merino sheep and llamas. Linda is also a "Best of Missouri Hands" which is a juried-approved artisan and is considered a "master in [her] respective medium". In the shop are Yarn Farm's merino roving in natural colors (dark brown, tan, and cream), spindles, and handmade, quilted project bags in large and small sizes.

Spring/Summer Lines

Do you have specific spring and summer yarns that you absolutely love? Knitty Couture is in the mist of bringing in warm weather lines and would like to hear your input on what should come into the shop. Email us at knit@knittycouture.com with your recommendations. We'll consider every single suggestion and hope our final decisions please you.

What we're doing

Our displays

Currently in the shop are several gorgeous pieces created by staff members.

In the west window is Sam's version of Alice Starmore's "Henry VIII" from the *Tudor Roses* collection. Rather than knit with the full color palette, the sweater was knitted with two colors

to make the pattern more visible, using a silk and wool blend (Knit Picks' Gloss) with US2.5 needles. It looks great and feels better, even if it pills a bit more than I'd like. This yarn offers a tighter gauge than the Shetland jumperweight wool recommended. Shetland yarn compliments most of the old Starmore designs like this one because the designs are oversized and don't offer many sizing options. So at least it fits!

In the east window is the Carrie B., a cream cardigan, designed and knitted by Thi. This cardigan was inspired by an episode of Sex and the City. Knitted in Rowan Little Big Wool, this garment was designed with aran and cable patterns and finished with a dark chocolate crochet edging. Pictures can also be found on the blog.

On the east and west walls are two Shetland Tea Shawls, knitted by Ellen and Thi. The pattern for the shawls can be found in Meg Swansen's *A Gathering of Lace*. The shawl displayed on the east wall was knitted in Alpaca with a Twist Fino while the one on the west wall was knitted in lace-weight hand-dyed zephyr. Knitting circular shawls can be a bit tricky at first since the item is started on double pointed needles (dpns) and eventually moved to circulars. The one recommendation you may consider is using bamboo or wooden, rather than metal, dpns to start off with.

There are also several socks and warm cold-season items on display. Four pairs of socks are currently on display. Two are mock cable socks with one knitted in fingering and the other in worsted. Another is a man's pair of socks in Trekking sock yarn, and the last is a pair of ski socks knitted in worsted by Thi's neighbor's mother.

The double knitted alpaca scarf is completed as are two new winter caps. Lastly, two Knitty patterns, Ice Queen and Quant, are available for the viewing should you be inspired to take a class to learn lace or entrelac.

Displays are constantly changing so be sure to check them out when you stop by to visit.

On the Needles

Ellen

The saddle shoulder aran cardigan by Meg Swanson (Spun out 49). I have about eight inches of the body and am still enchanted. This

will also be my first personal experience with steeking. Socks: two pairs, the Hedgerow socks and another pair in my own easy cable rib design. The Pi shawl, but mine is Sleeves in Your Pi from Knitters *Dozen Ponchos and Wraps*, and my own lace improvisations of Barbara Walker patterns in the blank spaces. I'm using bright red alpaca laceweight - at least that is my intention; we'll see how it works out in real life. A "Haruha" scarf in Laceweight Jade Sapphire Cashmere on size five square needles.... heaven is all I can say about this.

Sam

I'm still chugging away on a couple of sweaters. I'm working on the sleeves of the Morocco cardigan and the body of another jacket with Turkish patterns. While I'm usually a one or two project kind of guy, I haven't been as good lately. I'm slowly working on a Pi shawl for the shop's Pi Shawl Knit Along. I'm using a superfine laceweight/gossamer yarn on US #0 needles. Also, I've just cast on for another pair of toe up socks with one of Elizabeth's delightful Sheepfold cables running up the leg. Hopefully, I'll finish one of these things before I start a new project.

Eileen

Currently I'm working on the Pi Shawl in Interlacements Toasty Toes, a pair of socks in Fleece Artist Somoko, and the Barclay Jacket from *Simply Shetland 3* in three Cascade 220 purples.

Thi

February displays – a chenille bath robe and an alpaca semi-argyle sweater vest in shades of pink. And maybe, just maybe, a lovely beret, if I could figure out how to work the stitch pattern correctly.

Staff Picks

Ellen

I love the Lorna's Laces semi-solid sock yarn. So soft and a great choice for cable or lace patterned sock. The socks wear like iron, too! I have a pair I knitted three years ago, going strong. This yarn is also a good choice for easy beginner lace projects, as the semisolid dye will not distract from the pattern but adds interest for the knitter.

Sam

At the moment, I find that I'm coveting the Louet Gems Merino Sport Weight yarn (previously known as "Opal"). The colors are great. The yarn is really spongy and smooth. It is of course, machine washable. The yardage is really great. The yarn is also firmly spun which results in great stitch and pattern definitions. The best part, however, is that it's really versatile: great for socks, sweaters, hats, and lace work. You can't argue with that. Louet also makes Gems yarn in other weights, and while I do enjoy the fingering and the worsted, there's something particularly special about the sportweight.

Eileen

My current favorites—the square needles! I rarely work on single points, but I tried these and loved them. The stitches move so smoothly on the needles. I can't wait to use them again.

I'm also coveting the quilted project bags that just came into the store. Very cute and practical.

Thi

A Knitting Glossary with Elizabeth Zimmermann & Meg Swansen DVD by Schoolhouse Press. Talk about a ton of info. The first time I watched this video, I took about ten pages of notes – it was a library rental, and I kept the video for as long as possible. Actually, I think I had to pay overdue charges.