



# Knitty Couture

## Newsletter

Spring forward!

After such a finicky winter, aren't we all ready for the spring? Whereas I can't complain too much about playing in the snow, it seems most of us are dying for the grey days to pass so that the flowers can come out. In particular, we can't wait to set tables, chairs, and benches outside the shop so that everyone can enjoy the upcoming warm weather.

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### Current Events

#### Books & Knitting

Ideas about a book club in conjunction with knitting have been floating around the shop for several weeks. Should we read knitting books? Should we read books that mention knitting in them? Should we just pretend we're reading and knit instead?

Well, we all decided that we'll read books of all types, and knit while we discuss them. It may well actually be more like **Book Club and Wine** than **Book Club and Knitting**, but who's really regulating?

Our first book up for discussion is ***The Jungle*** by **Upton Sinclair**. This classic book is quite descriptive, we've heard, and for lack of a better word, harsh. Very harsh but we're quite sure, very interesting! So says the reviews.

We'll meet every **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 5:00-8:00pm**. Our first gathering, **March 18<sup>th</sup>**, will be a discussion of **chapters 1-3**.

#### Field Trips

What better way to connect to your knitting than to visit the source from where your yarn comes? Visit the farm, see the animals, talk to the owners, learn about the process, and more.

This summer, Knitty Couture will host several "field trips" to local farms in Missouri and Illinois. This spring and summer, we'll visit a **merino farm** in St. Clair, MO and an **alpaca farm** in Worden, IL.

We'll keep you posted on specific dates and times, but how fun this is going to be! Look forward to, at least, a half day event at the farm!

#### Knit for Newborns

We are continuing to invite knitters and crocheters to use up their stash to knit toys for Missouri children and families. Caps, blankets, and toys for ages newborn-4 years old are welcomed!

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### Groups

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays: Spinning Group, 4:30-7:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays: Book Club, 5:00-8:00pm

Thursdays: Knit Alongs & Knit Night, 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  |

### **Rowan Trunk Show**

The last leg of the Rowan Trunk Show arrives this week. The displays so far have been quite inspiring which is hardly surprising given Rowan's reputation for trendy yet classic designs. How wonderful it is to see the actual garments we've so admired from the magazines and books. Don't miss out!

### **Classes**

If you've not heard, the new class listing is now posted. Available also on the website are pdfs of the class schedule and descriptions should you need to print out these documents for yourself.

We've listened to what our customers had to say and devised a class listing that meets those needs. The new schedule includes pattern reading, crochet, fixing mistakes, and a 1<sup>st</sup> cardigan (perfect for springwear, learning to seam, shaping, and a bit of design).

In addition, we have two levels of colorwork classes for your knitting pleasure: beginners; and advanced levels. In the beginners' level, students will learn color-stranding through swatching. For those who would like more of a challenge, check out the advanced colorwork as it will address specifically on color and garment design. Juicy!

### **Upcoming Demonstrations**

Workshops and demonstrations are free classes in which we invite you to the shop every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday to learn about specific knitting techniques.

Do take advantage of these events!

Come by in April when we'll talk about the process and techniques of blocking as well as blocking recommendations and results of various fibers and weights. Visit the class link on the website for other upcoming demonstrations.

### **Upcoming Knit Alongs**

Spring is on the horizon, and it's time to begin thinking about what other knit alongs we'd like to start (as though we're not doing enough already!).

After the Pi Shawl, we'll visit another EZ piece. Perfect for the spring, the **baby surprise jacket** is a fun and quick piece to knit. Look forward to joining this knit along in May.

That means for those of you who are working on the Pi Shawl....Hurry up! Details to follow in the next issue.

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## **At the Shop**

### **A New Line**

In keeping with our mission of promoting small lines, we recently received a beautiful shipment of **hand-spun camel yarn from Mongolia**. The yarn is absolutely gorgeous and has spectacular loftiness.

Here are some of things we know about it.

- 1) The yarn comes from Bactrian (two-humped) camels from Central Asia where temperatures can drop down to -80°F. Yes, -80°F.
- 2) In warmth, camel fiber comes only after musk ox from the Arctic Eskimo yarn.
- 3) In contrast to wool, camel fiber is non-allergenic because it is in the camelid family along with alpaca and llama.
- 4) These camels DO NOT SPIT as they are well-treated and have intimate contact with the herders caring for them.
- 5) Most importantly, the camel down is hand-spun on drop spindles by nomad women.

Available in natural colors, we've stocked a variety of weights, including single-ply worsted, double-ply chunky, and fine lace. Also available is the exquisite *white* camel fiber in single-ply sportweight. A sample knitted beret will soon be available for viewing. Please stop by and admire.

### **Knit Kits**

Knitty Couture is excited to begin its first Knit Kit. **Knit Kits** are special deals on the purchase of particular book and yarn for a particular pattern in that book. Occasionally, when we find a wonderful pattern in a book, we'd like to offer knitters a chance to buy the entire package for a great value.

Our first knit kit is the **Modern Quilt Wrap kit** which includes the wonderful book, *Folk Style*, and nine balls of **Rowan kidsilk haze**.

A sample of the Modern Quilt Wrap will be available at the shop soon!

## What we're doing

### Our displays

In the east window is a chenille bathrobe, knitted in Wendy Darling Chenille yarn. Pink with a red heart on the left breast, this robe is lushly soft. Soon to be released from its window duty, this robe will be on the shop floor for closer scrutiny.

Currently in the west window is Iceland, a Rowan piece, knitted in Cocoon. This pattern can be found in Mag. 42. Please note that this will change soon due to the trunk show.

In the shop and on the walls are quite a number of lace pieces to view. Two samples of the Shetland Tea Shawl from *A Gathering of Lace*, Muir and Ice Queen from Knitty, Print O' the Waves from Eunny Jang, and several versions of the pi shawl decorate our shop.

### On the Needles

#### Ellen

SOCKS! This spring I have promised myself that I will knit Ten.Pair. Of. Socks. Also, I am knitting a sample of the **Modern Quilt Wrap** for the shop.

#### Sam

Over the past several weeks I've been focusing on getting my list of works in progress under control, so I've finished a sweater and a couple pairs of socks. While I think this is probably good for my long-term knitting well-being, it means that I am still working on the first sleeve of my Morocco sweater from Joyce Willams' **Latvian Dreams**. The instant that I finish this, I'm going to cast on for a sweater out of **Louet Gems Sport Weight** for a two-color pullover in conjunction with my **Advanced Colorwork class** that will be held this spring. I'm also knitting my second pair of socks from a skein of **Interacements toasty toes**.

#### Eileen

I'm almost done with my Pi Shawl in **Interacements Toasty Toes**, and I'm still loving the yarn--so colorful and soft. My Learn to Knit afghan in **Eco Wool** is a project that I expect to be working on through the summer. I love the richness of this yarn and figure small squares will be perfect as it gets warmer.

Next up is the **Clover Cardigan** from *Knitscene Winter07/Spring08*, which I'm

working up for the **Cardigan class** that begins at the end of March. I'm going to use the **Blue Sky Alpaca Organic Cotton** for it, and I can't wait.

#### Thi

Currently on the needles is a cable sweater vest in a gorgeous shade of grey for hubby. I'm also still working on the **Pi Shawl** for the **Knit Along**. I'm using in a soft chocolate heathered alpaca that flows through my fingers like butter. Both projects are near completed, and I hope to begin on spring ideas soon!

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## Staff Picks

#### Ellen

**Rowan wool cotton** makes me want to break my Socks-only-for-the-Spring resolution. There is something so solid and wonderful about the wool cotton, and it comes in beautiful warm colors.

#### Sam

I sat down with **Mary Thomas' Knitting Book** the other day and once again, I was really struck by how thorough and delightful this codex of general knitting knowledge is. It's not new and flashy, but it has \*everything\* and the style is quite fun. It's easy to forget how necessary and useful these books are, but armed with this book, I doubt there is any knitting crisis that one couldn't manage.

For yarn, I'd want to pick the **Interacements toasty toes**. The socks are great; the perfect blend of knitting speed, weight, and softness. In one skein, I'll have enough for five socks, you can't beat that.

#### Eileen

I'm also trying to figure out what to make with the **new camel yarn** that just came in the shop---and **Rowan cocoon** remains a dream yarn for me.

#### Thi

I've been eyeing the **Simply Shetland silk & lambswool** for quite a while. In particular, I like this gorgeous pink shade called Drumlanrig. I'd like to make something summery with it...perhaps, a summer tunic. We'll see.