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www.luminousthreads.com Alison Antone, Owner

February 2006 Newsletter

This Little Knitter Went to Yarn Market!

Well, I have just come back from the 2006 TNNA trade show in San Diego. It was so much fun, so inspiring, and so HARD to keep from buying everything I saw! I bought lots of sock yarn, silk ribbon, "Namaste" glass knitting needles, lots of new stylish project patterns, wool from "Rio de la Plata", "Mango Moon" silks from India, Suri Alpaca and Qiviut for the "luxury knitters", cotton and much more. You will hear more about these as they come in. It was amazing to see all the samples knitted up in new yarns for 2006. You will love the variety and colors of the spring/summer yarns selection at Luminous Threads Boutique!

Big Sale, February 17th – 19th. !

Come to the store Friday, February 17th through Sunday, the 19th for a giant sale! Selected fabrics will be 30% off, cutting mats will be 40% off, all books and patterns: 15% off, all tools (such as knitting needles, sewing notions, tape measures: 20% off, all Karabella yarns 15 % regular price, Cascade and Crystal Palace will be 25% off regular price, and the clearance yarns will be an extra 25% off! We will also have a door prize drawing for great prizes at the end of the day, each day, you are not required to be present to win! *Unfortunately, these prices are good for in-store items only, and you will not get to use your full punch card for an additional 15% off of these items, (sorry!).*

Throw A Luminous Threads Knitting Party!

Would you like to have a birthday party or other special event at Luminous Threads Boutique? Your friends who have always wanted to learn to knit can come in on a Saturday (or other chosen day) and have knitting instruction plus 10% off their supplies for the day! Kids, too! If you prefer to have us come to you at your chosen location, that can be arranged, as well. Call the store for more information.

Pajaro Valley Quilt Association Show! Gift Registry

The 2006 PVQA quilt show will be at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville Saturday, Feb. 25, 10-5 and Sunday Feb. 26, 10-4:30. There will be 500 quilts on display as well as a merchant mall where you will find fabric and hand made goods for sale. We will have a table too, with great deals on pre-cut one yard and fat quarter length pieces and more. Let your friends know what you really want for your birthday and other holidays by registering in our "wish list box"...

Gift Registry

Let your friends know what you really want for your birthday and other holidays by registering in our "Luminous Wish List Box". You can be as general or specific as you want to be. What could be better?

Are Privately Owned Crafting Shops Really More Expensive?

Are you a shopper who thinks s/he can get a better deal at a national chain crafting store? If you are, you may be surprised. Owners of friendly small businesses like Luminous Threads are not out to cheat anyone, and conversely, we are people just like you who want quality merchandise at affordable prices. So please use your dollars to make a difference: shop locally! And we will happily match any price of any yarn you see somewhere else. We want our customers to be totally satisfied with what we offer and the prices we ask.

New Yarn and More

-Sock Yarn! We have a great selection of new sock yarn, including Austermann “Step” which has aloe vera and jojoba oil. It is incredibly soft and the colors are beautiful! Time to learn how to knit socks, if you don’t know already! There’s also a new sock book for knitting socks on 2 circular needles, instead of double pointed. It’s so easy! You can take the sock class, too, if you want some extra help.

- Knit’n’Sniff - Have you ever knitted with Lavender Yarn??? What’s Lavender Yarn? Well, new from Skacel is a ribbon-like yarn that knits on an 8 or 9 needle and smells like lavender when you knit with it! You have to come see the six different beautiful colors we have to choose from. Be the first of your friends to have yummy smelling yarn!

-We have some new Crystal Palace yarns as well as some new yarns from Berroco! Check out the selection of various decorative yarns – now that we are about to welcome spring with bright colors and lighter fibers – including “Rave” a frayed ribbon, “Sizzle Bright” a sparkly eyelash, “Shimmer” & “Mikado Ribbon”. Need a something soft for a baby blanket? How about “Kiddo”... it couldn’t get any softer. “Quest” is a fast favorite, it shimmers, it’s furry, and it’s a show stopper. Do you have some yarn that needs something added to it to liven it up? We have “Sparkle Plenty”: 1200 yards of fine metallic fiber to carry with just about anything. “Fling” is great for a decorative embellishment to add to some boring yarn you might have lying around. Get creative!

-We also have new colors in yarns from Noro, Debbie Bliss, and KFI’S “Jumbo Merino”.

-Last month we got a huge shipment of new books – crochet, knitting, how-to’s, as well as some more advanced pattern books. We have a new Debbie Bliss book too, Baby Cashmerino, for all your truly adorable baby gift needs. Fiber Trends patterns are great, and we have some new ones, including felted baby shoes! If you need a cute gift for a child, how about a knitting kit for kids? We are always happy to help you put together a great gift kit from the selection of items in the store, as well.

February’s Most Luminous Customer

Each month we select a customer who shows no fear with knitting, crochet, or quilting. This craft artist can be of any skill level and any age; the most important thing is that he or she shows an intense determination and commitment to his or her art! This month the award goes to Cathy Warner. I taught Cathy to knit when the store first opened. Since then she has taken just about every class we’ve offered! She’s even come to the free flower demo and made a bunch of really cute knitted flower pins. Cathy has made a “Plush” blanket for her daughter, as well as some really beautiful and useful felted purses. I admire Cathy, not only for being so generous with her creations, but for always looking for a new way to challenge herself in knitting! She stays positive even working on a difficult project!

We Are Here For You!

Don’t forget! We are here to help you with your projects! Need a couple minutes of our time? We are happy to help you get back on track at no charge. Want an hour or more of attention? Your private class is only \$15/hour. Call 831.335.2621 to make your appointment!

Coupons

Cut out these coupons and bring them in to save on some wonderful items this month only!

A Bag of Yarn! Order a bag of 10 balls or skeins and get 15% off! (must pre-pay).

All Kids and Adults T-Shirts! Buy 2 get 1 free, (does not include custom orders).

Fabric! Buy 2 yards and get a ½ yard off the same bolt free!

Classes! 50% off any class.

Jewelry! 30% off all jewelry made by Alison.

Luminous Spring Fashion Show

Would you like your Luminous creation to be in our spring show? We will be having a big party in May and we are looking for knitters and sewers to show off their works. Please call the store for more info.

What is Qiviut?

Luxury Knitters know about the wonderful qualities of muskox yarn. We are eagerly waiting for our shipment of yarn from the Windy Valley Muskox company in Alaska. their yarns! You can look at the color choices available for us to special order for you by going to their beautiful website: http://www.windyvalleymuskox.com/colors/colors_pure_qiviut.html. Be the first of your friends to knit with the softest, most rare and sought after yarn there is. Here is an excerpt from their website:

“The fine undercoat of the muskox is called qiviut (kiv-ee-ute) in the Eskimo language, which is translated as down or underwool. Qiviut is naturally a soft grayish-brown color, and is one of the warmest and most luxurious fibers in the world. Eight times warmer than wool and finer than cashmere, qiviut is hypoallergenic and will not shrink. Extremely rare, it is one of the most luxurious fibers you can choose for a garment. In contrast to wool, qiviut is soft, non-irritating to the skin, and is very durable. Qiviut garments are worn for years and can be hand washed in mild detergent. It does not shed, is odorless and retains warmth even when wet. It is an extremely warm, yet lightweight fiber that preserves heat in the winter, while also providing cool, breathable comfort in warmer weather.” www.windyvalleymuskox.com.

A Few February Classes . . .

www.luminousthreads.com has the entire class schedule through the end of February)

-Kids' Weekly Class: Every Thursday from 3:15 – 4:15 we hold our kids' class. It is on a drop in basis for kids who need some extra help or want to learn something completely new, the fee is \$10.

-Private Lessons with Alison: *Get individual attention and work on whatever project you want to complete! \$15/hour* (what a deal!) Flexible days/times.

-Block of the Month Afghan Club! Free for members! Call the store or see our website for more information! Your choice of the first Wed. or Thurs. evening of every month. Go to <http://www.luminousthreads.com/afghan.html> for more information.

-Beginner's Review – Meets once: \$15

Do you need a refresher, but don't need to take the 3 class series? We'll review everything listed above and leave time for questions.

-“Finishing Projects Without Fear” – Meets once: \$15

Bring your almost-there projects and get those seams sewn!. Learn tips for professional-looking finishing including blocking, crochet borders, and much more!.

-Socks! (Knitting knowledge necessary) – Meets twice: \$20

We will start with a simple baby sock; after that you can make adult socks.

Coming in March: Lace Knitting, Color Knitting, Loopy Knitting, Gauntlets, and Sewing Handbags. Call for more information!

Last Words!

-Block of the Month Afghan: the club is forming and keeps on growing! It's never too late to join and start making your own knitting stitch sampler. You get a new color of yarn and a new stitch pattern in the mail every month. If you like, you may come to one of our monthly meetings, (choose from the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month), to learn the pattern as a group. Shipping and handling fees are included in the price. See: <http://www.luminousthreads.com/afghan.html> for more information.

-We sincerely apologize if you received your email newsletter last month with your email address and the list of customers in your mailing group showing. The person responsible for this error is not affiliated with the store and will not be asked to help us again. Again, please accept our apology, it will not happen again.

-Congratulations to Micky Bebe for winning 2 prizes at the Southern California Quilt Show last month. She won Best Group Quilt and Second Place for Traditional Quilt. You can see her quilts and the other winners by going to: <http://www.road2ca.com/2006winnersimages/winners.html>. Micky designs the small purse patterns we sell at store.

-Our monthly free knitting group at the store meets the 3rd Wednesday evening of every month. Please come and share whatever it is you are working on! The group meets from 5:30 – 7:30: 2/15.

-We are open 7 days a week. Monday: 11-2; Tuesday - Friday: 11-7; Saturday: 11-5; Sunday: 11-4

-If I carry a line of yarn you like, and you don't see a color at the store that you want for your project, we may be able to order it for you. If you need ten or more skeins we pay the shipping cost for you.

-If you have extra fabric around that you would like to donate to a good cause, please contact Valley Quilters at 338-4259, & ask for Pat. They work hard to create beautiful quilts to give to those in need.

-Interested in staying young from the inside out? Find out what age management is all about! Go to: www.longlifesciences.com