



6223 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018 - 831.335.2621
www.luminousthreads.com Alison Antone, Owner

November 2005 Newsletter

I remember back in elementary school, every year at Thanksgiving time the students in my class were asked to write about what we were most thankful for. I think it's a good idea to be clear about what our priorities are in life, what steps we are taking to make our dreams a reality, and what we are grateful for. I like the saying: "the best things in life are not things". These are the things that make me grateful: I am supremely fortunate to have the chance to create Luminous Threads Boutique as a reflection of my joy; I am proud of the beauty and quality of the merchandise I offer; I am blessed to have such friendly, supportive customers and I love seeing their beautiful creations; I am humbled and surprised when a customer sees one of my samples and wants to make something just like it; and it is completely satisfying when a student of mine who thought she was too uncoordinated to knit proudly shows me her gorgeous new scarf (it happens all the time). I also have the added help of my two wonderful worker/friends Amber and Kristin who are enthusiastic about the store and friendly to all of my customers. I am attempting to contribute to my community in a subtle way by assisting you, the artist, however I can. Finally, the store's economic wellness and abundance is reflected by how successful I am at meeting your needs as my customer, and it just grows from there. I didn't get into this business to "strike it rich". I did it because I am following my bliss and doing what I love, learning a lot and making friends along the way. I hope that many people live their lives this way, because life is so short. Thank you again for your support and encouragement! I am truly *thankful!*

Now on to the store: Have you started making your holiday gifts? Are your friends and family looking forward to receiving something OTHER than scarves this year? Scarves are great, and we have books on how to get more creative than the standard "garter stitch scarf", but knitting has become so popular that chances are the people you might make scarves for are going to get about 10 more from other knitters they know. Everyone knows and loves at least ONE knitter, maybe more. So why not get creative, learn some new skills, and look at some patterns online or here at the store. If you are still a beginner and you are pressed for time, you can make hats, handbags, pillows, simple ponchos and shawls, and yes, even socks. There are lots of things you can make for babies and children, too, so just come in and ask for recommendations. It's not too late to sign up for a class, too, if you think you need extra help. (Private one hour sessions are available, too, with me for \$15/hour for knitting, sewing, whatever you need!) So be sure to check the website for classes at www.luminousthreads.com. The site has been updated, too: there is a photo gallery and links to my favorite websites. To paraphrase Stephanie Pearl-McPhee: "Be fearless with knitting!!"

If you are a quilter, I would like to invite you to look at some books, get inspired and come in to pick out fabric for a special person in your life. It's not too late to start a simple quilt and have it done in time for Christmas. We have some cute vintage Christmas fabric, too. Don't miss our storewide fabric sale (more info below)! If you are interested in learning to quilt, please see our website under Class Descriptions and call to reserve a spot in one of the classes not yet on the schedule. You can even request days and times that work best for you. Once I have 2 more people sign up, we can have the class!

New at the Store:

Yarns: **Manos Del Uruguay** “*The Hands of Uruguay*” – This non-profit organization works to bring economic and social opportunities to rural women by working with more than 400 artisans in cooperatives scattered throughout the countryside of Uruguay. The super soft wool is a blend of merino and corriedale and is hand dyed, giving the yarn a marbled, striated effect. It has 138 yards per skein, and knits up on 8-10 US. Come in to see the 21 different colors we have to choose from. This yarn is perfect for people who find wool scratchy – it’s so luxurious and dreamy – you may get hooked on it! It’s also great for felting.

Cascade –220 *Superwash* is here! Now you can make washable wool garments, and this is the wool we’ll be using for the block of the month afghan (see last page). It gets softer and softer, too, and we’ll be getting more and more different colors. Use it for socks, too! Don’t forget about *Magnum* – it knits on a size 17 needle so you can knit up your Christmas scarves in a jiffy. I also made a short cabled poncho with it (see our display window).

Karabella – We now carry “*Puffy*” in four colors to choose from: mustard, black, white, and grey. This yarn is wonderfully soft merino and makes a great scarf or hat for a man! We just got in “*Loops*” which is just what it sounds like: big, thick loopy wool. It would make a fun collar on a sweater and I’ve used it in a felted bag, too.

Books and Patterns: Some new titles in the store include: Debbie Bliss Home –filled with designs for cozy gifts with yarns that we carry at the store, Felted Crochet – lots of fun patterns for those who prefer to crochet their felted wares, Pipsqueaks- really cute children’s knitwear designs 10 years! for babies as well as toddlers, and kids up to, Scarf Style – if you are bored of the garter stitch scarf, as well as some great reference books for when you get stuck or want to learn a new stitch pattern. Picture Knits has some great knitting motifs in it along with how-to, (and if you want to take my class, you can sign up for that, too!) At Knit’s End – Meditations for Women Who Knit Too Much is a hilarious little book you can pick up and read any time. It had me in stitches! (Pun intended). We also got in the 2006 Knit Bits day desk calendar with lots of tips and patterns – a new one every day!

Fabric: *More from Moda!* We get new Moda fabric in every week, so come check it out! We have pre-cut square packs for \$7.00 with one 5” block in every print in the collection. We also have sewn patchwork by the yard from the collection – one of my customers brought in her wonderful crib comforter she made with it, it washes up so soft! We also have a cute patchwork traveling case from Moda for taking all your tools with you to your classes.

Misc.: **Needles** - We are now carrying *Addi Turbo* needles from Skacel for those who do not like to knit with wood or plastic. These needles will make your knitting so fast and easy, you will never go back. I think they are well worth the investment... many of my customers agree.

Prisms – My wonderful friends Johanna and Ola create the rainbow-making prisms hanging from beautiful, colorful beaded strands I have now in the store. They make great gifts and each one is unique! Hang one wherever you need more rainbows.

Jewelry – Debbie Kinslow’s beautiful necklaces have joined our collection of jewelry. Her selection of colors is inspired by nature: “I’m like a crow – anything shiny catches my attention!” she says, with a delightful laugh. Don’t forget that jewelry makes great gifts – one very rarely treats oneself, right?!

Huge Fabric Sale!!!!

We will have a *sale* the week before Thanksgiving (Wed. the 16th to the 23rd) on all fabric. We are making room for new arrivals. Every bolt will be at least 10% off all the way up to 40% off. Notions will be on sale, also. So don’t forget to stop by for this fantastic sale and stock up!

More Sales

-Every day this month there will be a “Fabric of the Day” which will be marked at 30% off for the rest of the day. If you are the first customer to cut a length of fabric, your choice will be the sale bolt. It pays to shop early!

-Berroco *Opulent FX* will be on sale 40% off this month. This is a good spicy accent to liven up any boring yarn you might have hanging around – it’s sparkly, but not overwhelming and the variety of thick and thin gives a great texture. Reg. \$13.50 on sale for \$8.10!

-Debbie Bliss *Soho* will be 20% off this month only. *Soho* is 100% wool and comes in many different color variations. It makes a gorgeous and warm, cuddly sweater. We have a great pattern book to support this yarn. Catch it before it flies out the door!

-“Bring a Friend” – Bring in a friend who has never been to Luminous Threads and you will each get 30% off of any ball of yarn or single cut of fabric. November and December only.

Boutique Holiday Party

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 3. We will be having a big sale and our hours will be 11am-7pm. There will be a door prize drawing with lots of cool things for both knitters and quilters. Bring your friends!

Free Demos and Some November Classes . . .

(www.luminousthreads.com has the entire class schedule through December)

“Decorative Stitches” Fee: \$20, and get 10% yarn and needles for one scarf.

(Knitting knowledge is required: casting on, knitting, purling, increasing, decreasing.)

Meets twice: Saturdays, November 12 and 19, 2-3:30pm *or* Wednesdays, Dec. 7 and 14, 5:30-7pm

-We will learn how to add decorations to our projects; like bobbles, embroidery and embellishments, beads, and make a simple crochet edge. Suggested books: *Knitting Over the Edge*, by Nicky Epstein, and *Knitting and Crochet with Beads*, by Lily Chin. (10% off with registration).

“Motif Knitting” - \$15 (Knitting skills required: casting on and knitting)

Saturday: November 26, 3-5 pm

-Learn how to add designs to your projects using 2 different methods.

Free Demo: Hand Quilting Saturday, November 12, 4-5pm

-Come watch and learn how to do your quilting by hand. Learn about supplies, techniques, and tips of the trade! You’ll be ready to get that thimble on and start quilting!!

Free Intro to the World of Quilting: Saturday, November 19, 4-5pm

-Do you admire quilts from a distance, but don’t have the slightest idea where to begin? This is a quick, one hour intro for the absolute beginner. I will discuss fabric choice, which supplies are necessary, and which are not and I’ll show you some easy designs to get you started. Quilting is a wonderful art, come see how simple it is to begin!

Classes Coming In January

Some upcoming classes include: **“Beginner’s Review”** if you are beyond the basic knitting class and you just need to brush up on your skills and ask questions, this class will be for you. **“My First Baby Sweater”** we will learn, step by step how to make a very easy baby sweater with Debbie Bliss *Cashmerino*. **“Finishing Projects Without Fear”** will be a fun way to get some support to finish up the projects that are almost done, but are just sitting around because you’re not sure what to do next. We will learn from one another’s fears and mistakes! If you are interested in any of these classes, get your name and number on my list – maybe we can schedule the class at a time that works for you!

Join the Afghan Block of the Month Club!

We are really excited about the Block of the Month Club that will begin in January. If you join, you will receive a new color and easy to follow pattern in the mail every month. You know how much fun it is to receive something in the mail, let ALONE something to do with knitting! The yarn will be Cascade 220 *Superwash*, so your finished afghan will be totally machine washable. The color way choices are: "Ocean", "Mother-Earth" or "Pastels". The patterns will include cables, lace patterns color changes and more! 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. There is no fee for the group for members; it's like getting to take a class once a month for free! And of course, you are always welcome to drop in to the store for extra help. What is so fun about this project, is that even though we are doing the same blocks together, your afghan will look totally different than anyone else's because of the way you decide to lay out your blocks at the end. Plus, you will add some of your own block ideas to make your afghan your desired size. You can join at any time. The price for this project is: \$15/month billed separately, or \$150/year when you pay at once (get 2 months free). Shipping and handling fees are included in the price.

Discount Punch Card

Don't forget to use your punch card when you shop! As a way to thank our cash and check paying customers, we round up to \$20 even if you are only at \$18 on your subtotal (\$40 if you are at \$38, and so on). So bring your checkbook when you shop, it could really work out in your favor! Once you have filled up your card, you may use your 15% off for all merchandise even sale and clearance items, but it does not count toward class fees or consignment items.

Homeless Garden Project

You can donate a scarf (or more than one!) to the Homeless Garden Project to help raise money for their training program. The scarves are sold at their Holiday Store which earned \$6,000 last year with knitted items alone! Drop your scarves off at their office by 11/15. Contact Mary Edmund at 831.426.3609 ext. 0 for more information, or email: marye@homelessgardenproject.org.

Knitting Groups

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: 11/16, 12/21. If you are not available in the evenings, come to the daytime group which meets the third Thursday of every month from 11am-2pm: 11/17, 12/22. Part of the fun of knitting is the social aspect!

Last Words!

-Luminous Threads Boutique is looking for a part-time worker – experienced knitter, friendly and dependable. Fabric knowledge a plus. Call Alison for details! You'll get a great discount, too!

-We have gift certificates...Let your friends and family know what you really want for the holidays!

- If you like to dye your own yarn, or want to try it, please come in and ask about *Henry's Attic*.

-Crafting Charities: <http://familycrafts.about.com/od/craftingforcharity/index.htm> Stitches From the Heart: 1-866-472-6903. See also: www.afghansforafghans or www.shawlministry.com

-Many customers have asked me where I got my furniture! Find out how I can give you a free \$50 credit toward a purchase from the store I bought it at. Just call me and ask how!

-Interested in staying young from the inside out? Find out what age management is all about! See www.longlifesciences.com or call my husband, Dr. Thomas Antone at 408.358.1366. He will be giving free seminars about his program, so find out more about it!

-And remember to *Stay Luminous!*