

# Luminous Threads Boutique

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## Luminous Threads Newsletter, September 2005

Can you believe it's already September? I can't. But there is something wonderful about the approach of Fall. Even though the days are getting shorter, I really don't mind because it means that soon we will be busy knitting up scarves and sweaters or quilting up gifts for the holidays. Speaking of sweaters, are you getting bored of scarves, scarves, scarves? What's that you say?: You don't know "how" to go from scarves to something more complicated like a sweater? Well my question to you would be: "Have you tried?" There are so many easy patterns for you to attempt as you make your leap into the world beyond scarves. My advice is to start with a baby sweater. I have plenty of very easy and very adorable baby sweater patterns, and just about everyone knows someone with a baby, right? A small project like this is a good way to keep your investment low, and the time required to finish the project will be short, also. Instant gratification! I have a few patterns where the sweater is knit all in one piece, so there's no attaching sleeves, which some new knitters avoid whenever possible (although it is really easy once you have someone show you how). The hat class that I teach is a really easy next step, too, and hats make great gifts (meets 9/22 or 10/26, 5:30-7pm). Here are some other ideas for easy projects to get you off of scarves and onto style: handbags, ponchos, socks, vests, booties, blankets and afghans.

Ok, maybe you **like** scarves! There's nothing wrong with scarves. But there are so many variations like the dropped-stitch scarf, a cable-knit scarf, a yarn-over pattern scarf that looks like feathers or leaves. If you want to learn some new techniques, take my "*New Stitches for Intermediate Beginners*" class. It meets twice and you'll get to learn all kinds of new techniques. 9/7 and 9/14, or 10/13 and 10/20 5:30-7.

If you are quilter, not a knitter, why not step out of your box by finding a pattern you like that looks more difficult than the quilts you've been making. Chances are it won't be, and you will gain some new skills while making it. How about using curves like in the Drunkard's Path, smaller pieces like in a Mini Quilt, or pointy triangles like in the Mariner's Compass!? Some pieced quilt makers have never tried appliqué because it "looks too hard with all those tiny stitches". Well, yes, they are tiny stitches, but once you start you can't stop! And the world of design possibilities is enormous! You can pretty much make an appliqué quilt based off of any graphic image that strikes you. If you want to discuss any of this further, or get inspired, please come in and talk to me!

One of my favorite things about both knitting and quilting is the challenge. Once you've mastered one thing, why not challenge yourself, grow your skills, and impress your friends and yourself by discovering what else you can achieve! Pattern directions can be confusing, so please don't hesitate to ask me for help, or come in for *Knitting 911*. That's what we're here for.

Please note that we will be closing at 5pm on Saturdays until further notice.

I would love to hear from you. Is there something you would like me to carry in the store, or do you have any ideas for me??? Drop me an email: [luminousthread@earthlink.net](mailto:luminousthread@earthlink.net)

## *New at the Store:*

**Yarns:** Some of Knitting Fever's wonderful yarns came in last week: "*Etnico*," "*Astro*," and "*Mystique*" just to name a few. I also have "*Angora Extra*" which is a blend of angora (70%), wool (25%), and nylon (5%). It will make a delicious scarf or hat.

If you like hand-dyed natural fiber yarns you will love "*Magallanes*" 100% wool by Araucania Yarns, Chile. The richness of these colors will really blow you away. Schaefer Yarns' "*Elaine*" is exceptionally fantastic as well. This is a 300yd. hank of hand-dyed Merino Wool in really exciting colors – perfect for the child's sweater pattern that I have available, or any pattern of your own. I have it right in front when you walk in, and most of my customers just have to stop to admire it, oohing and ahing. It's wonderful to hear such enthusiasm about the yarns we have in the store!!

We have two new colors of Karabella "*Mirage*" (the variegated mohair). Check out the sample I knitted in a yarn-over pattern (this pattern is taught in the "New Stitches" Class). I now carry "*Mirage*" in orange, blue, green and grey. I also have "*Gossamer*" in a light golden-brownish color with metallic gold flecks running through it. I have knitted a sample shawl in this yarn in the bright teal color with metallic silver flecks. I am happy to share the pattern with you and it only takes two balls of the yarn. I am still waiting for a lot of Karabella yarns, they should be here by the end of the month, so keep checking with me!

**Books:** We now have a nice selection of crochet books, for all of you who love to crochet. I have searched for the newest, hippest books in a full range of skill levels. Other favorites include: [Stitch'n'Bitch Nation](#), as well as Lily Chin and Candy Jensen's books. If you don't already have [The Knitter's Handbook](#), I highly recommend it as a reference for when you get stuck, or just for inspiration when you want to go off on your own with a new pattern idea.

**Misc.:** We have a new consignment artist in our jewelry case – Roni Edeal makes gorgeous shell and silver jewelry. She uses abalone, white shell, coral and more! These earrings and necklaces are so delicate and yet make such a statement. If you have friends who live far from the ocean, these pieces would make great gifts: a little piece of Santa Cruz!

Everyone loves the new sheep measuring tapes I have – what a perfect gift for a friend, or for yourself! The tail is the tape that comes out, and you squeeze the middle to wind the tape back up! They send a "black sheep" with every dozen I order, so keep that in mind for the holidays! What a cute stocking stuffer for 11 of your closest friends, and you can keep the black sheep (I'll throw it in for free when you buy the others).

Elegant sari bags: Do you need something stylish to keep all your tools and gadgets together? I have beautiful pouches and bags made from saris in many different colors. These would make great gifts, as well. Don't forget about all of the Lantern Moon needle cases, baskets and handbags.

**Coming Soon:** Sock yarn, Chunky Alpaca from Frog Tree, and Cascade 220 Superwash! New novelty and reproduction fabrics are coming in all the time. So check in with us!

## September Sales:

- Get a free fat quarter with any 3 yard fabric purchase (off the same bolt). Please refer to this newsletter when purchasing if I forget! Thanks!
- Print the top half of this page to get 20% any single cut of fabric or any one ball/skein of yarn during September.
- All wool from your local yarn company: Sheepy Dreams is on sale 15% off. The sheep who give us this gorgeous yarn are raised on organic clover pastures right here in the valley, and our local spinners spin the wool. Your scarf will be quite a conversation piece!
- Liquidation of "Tickle" and "Sashay", regularly priced at \$5.00 and \$4.75, now on sale for \$3.00 ea. They are great for new knitters who love bright colors and fun textures.
- Get 20% off Karabella "*Tropicana*" and Berroco "*Jewel FX*". Until supplies last. I have beautiful patterns to make tops with the Tropicana. And the Jewel FX would be lovely carried with another yarn, too. Sale prices are: \$7.20 ("*Tropicana*") and \$5.20 ("*Jewel FX*").
- Receive a "Suss Designs" large tote bag with any single \$175 purchase (good when your total purchase is \$175 or more). While they last!
- Select jewelry is on sale 20% off. (The case to the right of the register only.)

## Newly Added to the Class Schedule!

### **Make a Felted Handbag with Vick Wick**

(Basic knitting knowledge is required)

2 Saturdays: 10/15 and 10/22 from 3-5pm; \$30.

-Vick Wick is a very talented local artist who makes the felted handbags I have in the store on consignment! Come in the store and check them out. They are so unique and stylish! This will be a fun workshop in which to explore the creative possibilities for you bag: the general shape and style or the bag, unique yarn combos, different handles you can make or buy, beading on your bag and ways to close the bag. Get the scoop on mistakes to avoid and other tips. Not only will Vick go over the general felting instructions, she will bring her creative style and talent to help you create the perfectly one-of-a-kind bag you've been dreaming of. I will also have copies of "Pursenalties" for sale for extra encouragement.

## More Classes:

### **One Day Workshop: Hand Piecing**

(No sewing experience necessary)

Meets once for 1 1/2 hours - \$15. Fri., 9/30 5:30-7; Sat., 10/8 3-5pm; or Thurs., 10/27, 5:30-7.

-Watch the demo and then practice piecing together a block without your sewing machine. Learn about what materials you need to make a complete quilt by hand. In this workshop, we will create a small ornament that can be filled with stuffing or lavender (or both!). Wouldn't you love to be able to take your quilting with you wherever you go? Fabrics for the workshop will be provided for you, but please bring good scissors and a marking pencil, needles, and thread (available at the store, of course!).

### **Double Wedding Ring Quilt Class**

(Minimal sewing experience necessary)  
Saturday, October 1, 11am-5pm; \$45.

### **Crochet a Hat and Scarf Set with Robin**

(Some crochet knowledge necessary)  
Meets on two Saturdays: September 17 and 24, 11am – 1 pm. Fee: \$30

Note: (*Beginning Quilting*: If you are interested in taking Jenny Hibberd's famous beginning quilting class, please call the store and we will get it onto the calendar!)

(See [www.luminousthreads.com](http://www.luminousthreads.com) for the complete class description list)

### **Free Flower Making Demo and Practice**

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7pm

-I will be demonstrating how to make very simple flowers you can add to any project: scarves, hats, handbags, whatever! You will need a worsted weight yarn and the needle size suggested on the label.

## *Favorite Websites*

[www.knitty.com](http://www.knitty.com) see the archives for free stylish patterns

For help casting on: <http://knitty.com/ISSUEsummer05/FEATsum05TT.html>

[www.about.com](http://www.about.com)

*What are your favorite websites? Share them with me and I'll share them with other customers!*

## *Knitting Group and Knitting 911:*

We will have a monthly free knitting group at the store which will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Please come and share whatever it is you are working on! The group meets from 5:30 – 7:30: 9/21, 10/19, 11/21. Part of the fun of knitting is the social aspect!

Long-time knitter and instructor Gunilla Leavitt will come to the shop once a month to help people with their very serious knitting problems. If you need a good half hour or so with someone who really knows her stuff, please call to check for availability and to sign up for your time slot. This is a free service.

## *Remember!*

**-We have gift certificates! It will soon be time to start dropping hints to your friends and family!!**

- A long list of charities organizations accepting handmade gifts can be found on about.com

<http://familycrafts.about.com/od/craftingforcharity/index.htm>

Or call Stitches From the Heart at 1-866-472-6903

-For inspiration, come in and sort through all the free patterns I have for you to choose from.

-Watch "Simply Quilts" and "Knitty Gritty" on DIY Network.

-Do an internet search for "free knitting patterns", "free crochet patterns", or "free quilting patterns".