

Spring – finally!



After the cold New England winter don't you just itch to get out of the house/office? Why not grab a friend and come visit the shop? Your friend will appreciate the invitation and the craft you share in common.

Two knitting friends **J** and **P** routinely meet at the shop and then have lunch together. They don't live near each other so Creative Fibers is the perfect meeting place. You might see them all comfy on the couch, chatting, catching up, and sharing knitting ideas before deciding on the perfect yarn. What a nice way to keep a friendship going in this age of hectic schedules and responsibilities.

If your friend isn't a knitter or crocheter yet, maybe you could introduce him/her to this satisfying handcraft that is wonderfully rewarding and something you can continue to share in your friendship.

With all the woes we hear about in the world, Jill Eaton sums it up well. "When we are knitting, all is right with the world." I'd like to add that *sharing our craft with friends* is even better.

Happy knitting, Laura

Call to Action!

What better way to serve others than through our craft?

Premie Hats and Blankets for 5 local hospitals
These knit up fast and are collected year round.
Free patterns are available.

Project Linus – blankets of all sizes are needed to help children in distress. A statewide goal is to have one blanket in every state trooper cruiser in CT. That's 900+ blankets! Help us contribute towards this wonderful cause by knitting one (or more) 12 inch squares in Plymouth Encore yarn. Pattern is on the next page of this newsletter. Our collection deadline for these items is June 30th.
For more info on Project Linus:

<http://www.projectlinus.org/>

Afghans for Afghans – socks and hats of 100% wool are needed for Afghani children. Our collection deadline for these items is also June 30th. For more info:
<http://www.afghansforafghans.org/>

Spring Shop Hours

Monday – Thursday	10am - 7pm
Friday	10am - 7pm
Friday Open Knitting - most Fridays	7pm - 9pm
Saturday	10am - 5pm
Sunday	1pm - 5pm

Closed

Sunday, April 12th - Easter
Sunday & Monday May 24th/ 25th – Memorial Day

Newly Arriving

Koigu ~ new solid and variegated colors. This fingering weight yarn is great for socks, shawls, wristlets, baby sweaters and more.

Malabrigo ~ new lace, sock, silky merino and worsted weight yarns. Check out our wall of worsted Malabrigo. It will take your breath away.

Nashua (Rowan) **Daylily** ~ a fun variegated summer yarn ~ 46% cotton, 31% acrylic, 23% nylon, 4.25 sts/inch, 87 yds, \$7.95

Dream in Color **Starry Sock** ~ with sterling silver flecks, \$22

Berroco **Lattitude** ~ this light worsted yarn is a great substitute for Seduce in Berroco patterns ~ 48% cotton, 48% rayon, 4% binder, 5 sts/inch, 109 yds, \$8.00

Berroco **Mica** ~ a slight shimmer and rich colors (from the silk) transforms this year-round yarn from casual to dressy ~ 31% cotton, 26% silk, 23% nylon, 20% linen, 5.25 sts/inch, 108 yds \$8.00

Classic Elite **Silky Alpaca Lace** ~ touch it, see it - wonderful~ 70% alpaca, 30% silk, 8.5 sts/inch, 460 yds, \$9.95

Classic Elite **Soft Linen** ~ whether it is the little leaf scarf, a shawl or an entire sweater, this is a lovely summer yarn ~ 35% Linen, 35% Wool, 30% Baby Alpaca, 5.25 sts/inch, 137 yds, \$10.50

Shibui Sock Yarn ~ new colors; check out wasabi & orchid ~ 100% superwash merino, 7.5 sts/inch, 191 yds, \$9.00

We recently received an order from our Canadian friends *Hemp for Knitting*. This organic yarn is eco friendly and great for market bags, washcloths or dishcloths. The key for softer hemp is to wash it and use it often.

Hemp Fingering (new colors) ~ 100% hemp, 7 sts/inch, 150 yds, \$6.75

Hemp DK (new colors) ~ 100% hemp, 5.5 sts/inch, 165 yds, \$11.00

Hemp DK Lux ~ prewashed 100% hemp, 5.5 sts/inch, 143 yds, \$17.00

New books arriving – Reserve your copy

Mother Daughter Knits – Sally Melville's newest collection of knitwear designed with her daughter Cat ~ \$29.95

Socks from the Toe Up ~ finally, an entire collection of toe up designs! Wendy Johnson ~ \$22.95

Sunday May 10th – Lady's Day

Help us celebrate *all* women on this special day.

Take \$5 off any yarn purchase* of \$50 or more

Take \$10 off any yarn purchase* of \$75 or more

Take \$20 off any yarn purchase* of \$100 or more

*sale yarn is excluded

Knitting with Natural Fibers

Have you tried knitting with linen or hemp?

We are offering two classes featuring these natural fibers. Join us for a knitted market bag or washcloth. See the class schedule for dates and times.

Class Highlights

We've put together a nice balance of classes for you this spring. Whether you are a newer knitter or advanced, there is always something new to learn. Or, consider taking a basic class and embellishing the design.

Here are some highlights:

The **Basic Baby Cardigan** class addresses all the components of an adult size sweater with *less knitting!* Gain confidence if you are a newer knitter and learn several techniques that you will use again and again.

Using basic crochet stitches, create a **Beaded Wire Necklace** that will appear to float on your neck.

Color coordinate your necklace to one of your sweaters for an added bonus.

We've gone crazy with our little friends the **Felted Geckos**. We do ask that you are an experienced knitter; these critters are all about short rows. You'll be a short-row expert after taking this class.

Looking for some simple knitting with a great result? Do you have yarn in your stash that you want to use up?

The **Magnificent Shawl** class is for you. And if you don't want to fuss with selecting colors we have done the work for you with our shawl kits.

Summer Tank Top

We'll finesse a simple tank top pattern with waist shaping and other details that will result in anything but a basic tank top.

Laura is knitting hers in Nashua's new yarn Daylily; fun summer colors.

Project Linus 12" Square Pattern

Since many will be contributing squares towards a completed blanket we ask that you use Plymouth Encore worsted weight yarn for fiber consistency and machine washability. Please use a needle size that will result in a gauge of 5 sts per inch.

We will start assembling blankets after June 30th and appreciate any volunteers. I will post "assembly" session dates & times for July & August in the summer newsletter.

We'd love to send several snuggly blankets to Project Linus by the end of the summer so please consider knitting for this worthwhile project.

Cast on 60 sts.

Knit 7 rows.

Row 1: Knit all sts.

Row 2: Knit 5 sts, purl across row until 5 sts remain, k5.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until block measures 11 inches.

Knit 7 rows.

Bind off loosely.

Note: if you would like to vary the pattern "inside" the 5 stitch border, please do so just as long as your completed block measures 12 inches square.

National Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework Biennial Convention

May 17-19th - Crown Plaza - Enfield, CT

Organized in 1977, the Guild has chapters throughout the US and worldwide to share a common interest in Jewish tradition and the desire to create new and beautiful Judaic items for family, home and synagogue.

Creative Fibers is delighted to host an exhibitor's table at the convention. Join the fun!

For more details on scheduled events/times, go to www.pomegranateguild.org

Six Degrees of Separation

This is one of our best ever shop stories!

A customer came in today to drop off preemie hats. She doesn't live nearby but was visiting relatives. She mentioned that her (local) nephew recently received a speeding ticket and was offered community service in place of a fine. He must have googled "Windsor community service" and the shop showed up. While he wasn't interested in knitting preemie hats or Project Linus blankets, his sister said she would. Then, a 17-year-old niece on the other side of the family thought it was a neat idea and enlisted her girlfriend to make hats as well. All because of a speeding ticket!

The Uglies

While we try to keep the yarn shop a positive experience there are a few items I need to pass along to you.

US Postage increase – due to increased costs associated with printed newsletters we will discontinue mailing newsletters after this Fall's mailing. In the future you may either pick up newsletters at the shop or have them emailed. (They are also posted on our website.) We're giving you an early heads up in case you want to let us know your email address.

Theft – yes, it's very real and hurts you as well as me. I can either raise prices (which hurts you) or I can absorb the loss (which I can no longer afford to do). It also hurts on a personal level. My beaded Koigu shawl was taken from the shop. It's unique; sagey/aqua greens with taupe undertones and dark green iridescent beads. If you see it, I'd like to know. ☹

The State of our Economy – oh, I don't mean the shop. We are trying to be very careful during this difficult time so we can remain open for you. It's everything else. We are imposing a "2-minute rule". You can comment (or whatever verb you translate "comment" into; whine, complain, vent...) for a brief period and then we will ask you to change topics. Let's try to keep the attitude in the shop positive! Thanks ☺

Creative Fibers LLC

April~May~June

2009 Class Schedule

Basic Baby Cardigan (Julie) \$60
 Are you ready to try a real sweater but afraid to tackle one? Learn all the basics of a cardigan sweater in miniature, including button bands, finishing and seaming. Pattern included in class fee. Confidence with knitting and purling required.
 Sat. 4/25 & 5/2,9,16 12:30-2pm

Beaded Ruffled Socks (Julie) \$60
 Take a basic sock pattern; add a ruffle and beads to make it a spectacular sock. This is a good class if you have never knit a sock before. Pattern included in class fee.
 Sat. 4/25 & 5/2,9,16 2:30-4pm

Beaded Wire Necklace (Amy) \$50
 Amy will teach you how to crochet with fine wire and beads to create a lovely beaded necklace. All supplies are included in the cost of the class.
 Mon. 6/8,15 6-7:30pm

Correcting Common Errors (Laura) \$15
 We all make mistakes. Gain confidence and practice correcting the common errors.
Note: Pre-work is required for this class.
 Sun. 4/19 2-3:30pm

Eco Friendly Washcloth \$35
 Once you have used one of these organic washcloths you may never want to use anything else. Perfect for newborns as well as oldsters. Choose a simple washcloth or try a lace pattern.
 Mon. 5/4,11 (Amy) 6:30-8pm
 Sat. 6/20,27 (Laura) 1-2:30pm

Felted Gecko (Laura) \$45
 We've gone crazy over geckos and this project has an abundance of short rows for you to perfect. But don't worry if your short rows aren't perfect. Once the knitting is done you will felt your gecko and any little errors will simply disappear. Pattern included in class fee. Confidence with knitting and purling required.
 Mon. 4/20 6-8pm & 4/27 5/4 6:30-7:30pm

Finishing Techniques (Laura) \$20
 You've completed the knitting; now learn to complete your project with professional results.
Note: Pre-work is required for this class.
 Mon 5/11 6-8pm

Intro to Knit (Laura) \$40
 We cover the basics and build your confidence in this class. If you've wanted to learn to knit, or need a good refresher class, sign up for this class.
 Mon. 6/1,8,15,22 6:30-7:30pm
 Sat. 5/2,9, 1-2:30pm & 5/16 1-2pm

Many Cast-on Methods (Laura) \$20
 We'll cover at least one dozen methods of casting on. But more importantly, we'll discover why you would use each method.
 Sat. 4/11 2-4pm
 Sat. 6/20 3-5pm

Market bag (Amy) \$30
 Knit up this mesh market bag using an eco friendly fiber. Try linen or hemp; both are strong, antibacterial and stylish. This bag is perfect for groceries, the beach, or children's toys and requires only basic knitting skills. Pattern included in class fee.
 Mon. 4/20,27 6-7:30pm

Magnificent Shawl (Laura) \$40
 Easy knitting yet every shawl is unique and truly magnificent! We have several on display to get your creative juices flowing. This is a great project to use up yarn from your stash. Or, purchase one of the kits we have created. Basic knitting skills are required. Pattern included in class fee. Kits are additional.
 Sun. 5/31 3-5pm & 6/14,21 3-4pm

Moebius Shawl (Laura) \$60/40
 Learn Cat Bordhi's magical moebius cast-on method and create a custom shawl. Class fee includes Cat's A Treasury of Magical Knitting.
 Sat. 5/16,30 3-5pm

Summer Tank Top (Laura) \$65
 Learn tips and techniques for a perfect fitting summer top. Class fee includes pattern. Confidence with knitting and purling required.
 Sun. 5/31 & 6/14,21,28 1-2:30pm

Note: All Class Supplies are 10% Off!

Class Enrollment Notes & Policy

Class size:

- We require a minimum of three students to hold a class. Most classes will be limited to no more than six students to allow you sufficient time with the instructor.

Class enrollment:

- We ask that you pre-pay your class enrollment as a courtesy to the instructor.
- **No refunds will be made if you cancel your enrollment.** Please check your schedules carefully before enrolling in classes. We will refund your enrollment fee if a class is cancelled due to low enrollment.
- You may call in with a credit card, send in a check, or stop by the store. You will NOT be considered enrolled until you have paid.
- It is your responsibility to attend all classes in a multi-session program. Unfortunately **class makeup sessions are not available.** (If you need to miss a class you may consider spending some 1-1 time with the instructor at \$10/half hour.)
- If a class is full we would be happy to put you on a waitlist for that particular date. You will ONLY be called if an opening for that class date becomes available.

Class materials discount:

- You will receive a 10% discount on class materials. We do ask that you purchase the materials at Creative Fibers LLC as outlined by the instructor for the class.
- If during the class you find that the needles you purchased for that class don't provide the correct gauge we will be happy to exchange them for another size as long as you have your receipt and the original needle package is intact.

Class cancellations:

- We will try our best to reschedule classes cancelled due to poor weather conditions. (Hopefully we will have few.)

<p style="text-align: center;">World Wide Knit in Public Day Saturday, June 13th</p> <p>Knitters and crocheters will meet on the Windsor town green at noon. Meet others and inspire even more by knitting in public. Bring a lawn chair, lunch or snacks.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Private Instruction</p> <p>Found a class but it doesn't meet your schedule? We can easily arrange it as a series of 1on1's with homework at \$10 per half hour/\$20 per hour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or, grab a friend and make it a shared private lesson</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Drop-in Knitting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Most Friday evenings from 7-9pm First Wednesday of each month 7-9pm. It's free; just come!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cell Phone Usage in the Shop</p> <p>Please consider turning your cell phone to vibrate in consideration to other customers, students and the staff. If you must take a call, please move to a quieter location. Thank you in advance.</p>



Spring Class Schedule – Inside!

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Memorial Day



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