

Loose Threads

Fall/Winter 2008-2009

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Anne's Corner

Thursday nights have been interesting and fun as usual. Over the summer we have had new people join us, some vacationers, some close neighbors. Dale from Texas could not acquire enough projects in one visit, so kept coming back for lessons and supplies, and kept great laughs, conversation, and marvelous knitting enthusiasm going in the sit and knit area. A true knitting addict, on vacation with her needles in tote. I think she had the most fun with the sea lettuce scarf, which has enchanted many others venturing into Six Loose Ladies. Thanks to Lucy Neatby (the designer) for this fun project and Sandy Gregg for knitting up the first sample that we all just had to make after seeing hers. So fun!. Lucy Neatby has a true sense of humor, and it shows in her unique patterns.

Welcome to Virginia, our neighbor just one block from the store. Little did she know when she walked in one night and said she wanted to learn to knit where that would take her. Immediately Virginia became enchanted with knitting and has not looked back since the first slip knot on her needle. From lesson one with Anne at the front table to the beautiful creations she keeps bringing to show and tell, she is a true enthusiastic knitting fiend. Welcome to the group, and may your stash grow, and your projects and ufo's become as daunting and prolific as all the knitters who have caught the bug. I am so proud of what Virginia has done after learning the basics, and can see that she is just going to keep on producing beautiful knitted items. I'm sure Brad is happy too as he has some lovely very warm new clothes for winter.

Welcome also to Ann our new neighbor from across the pond and now living in Chester. We have enjoyed learning about the bookbinding world, and lots of interesting tidbits about books, while Ann is knitting away. She has two beautiful sweaters in the works, and I think she will be wearing them soon. Watch out "sweater a week Janice," you may have some competition. Beverly also in the field of books, being a librarian, has brought more awareness of how the library system works in Vermont, and many neat knitting projects. Beverly has dabbled in many different fiber techniques, and caught the drop spindle spindle bug on Spin theme night. All these fiber related diseases are good for the soul.

Niki has just moved to Ludlow, and will be working at Okemo. I hope we can get you more acclimated to the area, and help you in your knitting process. It is great to see new knitters get going on a project with a little pattern to it.

Congratulations to Carlita, soon to become a Mother of the Bride. It's a great joy, and we sure hope we get to see all the pictures. Carlita too is enamored by the sea lettuce scarf. I think we all will be wearing sea lettuce ruffles this winter. They just are so fun and good looking.

Oh and Lucas thank you for giving us so many giggles. For someone who knows so much of the fiber world, it sure is a treat to hear all the funny anecdotes, and learn about the different species that give us the fiber that we spin, knit and wear. I hope you come play more often.

Paulette, welcome back from summer. We missed you and your great sense of humor.

Also welcome to Sandy. I hope we make your wait for your new home in CT enjoyable, and also hope you will come to visit after your move. Ski instructors at Okemo can always use a little break at Six Loose Ladies.

So come join us on Thursday and be part of this fun crowd. We love to help on projects, see your show and tell, and also enjoy having knitters, spinners, and other fiber fanatics to sit and chat with. Each Thursday is always different, so you never know what to expect, but always fun. Also, even though we have different themes each week, spin, rug hook, quilt, knit or crochet, feel free to come do whatever you want.

CLASSES

We have had quite an interesting series of classes at Six Loose Ladies, and more fun ones to come. From Paste Paper, to Adirondack baskets, knitted felted

clogs to socks "how to," the magical mysterious Mobius scarf to the crochet bloomin' scarf, and now the intro to weaving. It has all been fun, and the results are amazing. I am so proud of my paste paper boxes, and my book from the book binding class that I show everyone who comes to my house. I'm like a two year old. I also love to see the knitted felted clogs that people from my class have finished. The ruffles and the fun fur are great additions and I know there are a few more happy warm well dressed feet in the area.

On Wednesday mornings we have had a beginner weaving class with Diane Yelton. The class is really moving along nicely and the women will have a lovely embellished purse in another three weeks. What fun it has been to sit at the front desk and listen to the laughter, and then the quiet serious concentration and the exciting energy around the projects. When I looked into the class room there were wonderful inviting streams of lovely colors of wool being readied for the loom. It was heartwarming for me to see the new class room being used and I look forward to seeing the beautiful projects that will come out of that room. Our mission statement to foster the fiber arts is really happening.

In 2009 we hope to have a second installment for the weaving class, and can take a few more beginners as well. Call or email us if you are interested. We may even have a class for young people if there is enough interest.

Coming up we have a stenciled floor cloth class, Nantucket style basket, a lovely beginner quilted wall hanging class, more paste paper, and paste paper boxes, Rug hooking and who knew.....wooden carved spoons in January..

If there is a class you would like to have please let us know, and we shall set it up if possible. If you have a class you would like to teach, also let us know. We always have fun in our classes, and it is a great way to get projects started and done. Come join us for one.

Hint: When felting your knitted items, keep in mind that the vertical part of the garment felts more than the horizontal. Also the rate of shrinkage is approximately 1/3 but.....darker colors felt faster and tighter (usually) than the lighter colors. White should always be tested before you do the project as some treated whites will not felt. (Icelandic is an exception as it felts when you look at it....just kidding, but it does felt fast.)

Suzanne's Two Bits

Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?

I'm sure many of you remember that song from the early days of Sesame Street about the baker, the grocer, the 'garbage man'; the wide variety of folks that keep a community going? Some of you probably even remember when those kinds of neighborhood enclaves still existed. Perhaps you have fond memories of the corner drug store, with its ubiquitous soda-fountain, or the cinema, or the little market that you could just ring-up with your order and the delivery boy would bring it round to your door. And all of this within walking distance from your house! These were places where you were recognized, where they greeted you by name and knew your preferences. They knew that you'd go 'ga-ga' over the fresh raspberries and that you liked your chocolate-maltes extra thick!

I remember just such a market, a place I used to frequent when I was pregnant with my first child. There was a good meat department and a fine produce section that was tended with great care by the green grocer. After my son was born, I would always bring him shopping with me and all the staff would "ooh and ahh" over him. He had been a preemie, and was quite tiny so I had been admonished to monitor his growth rate; but we didn't own a scale. So, when I next went to the market I thought little or nothing of inquiring of the fellows at the meat counter if they wouldn't mind putting my sweet boy on their scales - which they did happily and with great aplomb! It didn't occur to me to think of this as strange until a few minutes later when I looked about me and registered four or five burly butchers wearing blood-stained aprons and clutching cleavers, all clustered around my little infant -- each grinning goofily, one gently chucking the baby's chin, another holding out a big finger to be grasped by a tiny fist and all applauding the stupendous $2 \frac{1}{2}$ oz. weight gain!

This was a sweet moment and it could only have happened at that market. It would have been unthinkable to make such a request at the Super Stop & Shop just up the street.

It is sad that the super-size, big-box enterprises are edging out the smaller community shops. I don't know about you, but on the rare occasion when I do go to one of these mass markets; I may feel a fleeting satisfaction at having saved a few cents, but I do not feel good about the shopping experience. In these places, if I am acknowledged at all, it is with a vacant expression and a vapid smile. I am just

one of the thousands, conversation is limited to "Debit or credit?" and "Paper or plastic?"—not even complete sentences!

We are fortunate, here in Vermont, to still have some of those old neighborhood establishments; places such as Lisai's, Singleton's and Erskine's, where they not only know their product but they know you too. Six Loose Ladies isn't that old, but we are striving to be that kind of a place, where after you are greeted, you can linger as long as you like, you can touch stuff, get help when you're stuck, learn a new skill, be part of a "close-knit" community.

I had set out here to write an article about "buying local." I fear I've meandered a bit, so to make up for that; in future newsletters I will introduce you to some of the people in our neighborhood, the local fiber producers who are represented in our store.

Hot items

If you haven't knit the Sea Lettuce Scarf by Lucy Neatby, you may be the only one who hasn't. The first two dozen patterns flew out our door!! Our shop sample elves couldn't restrain themselves, and knit them in Alpaca/boucle, Shaeffer yarn, Noro Silk Garden Lite to show you the variety you can achieve in one pattern knit with different yarns!

We have a great sock yarn selection - Noro Kureyon, Cherry Tree Hill, Online, Handpaint, Mt. Ascutney, Lanette, and rumors of Snowshoe alpaca sock yarn to come. You can also use these yarns in combination with other yarns for extra effect, or combine them for thicker socks. Try Online mixed with a Lanette for a colorful, thicker sock! (Okay, they'll knit faster too because they're a bit thicker, and they're washable.)

If you're a yarn voyeur, and want something you won't find in Chicago or Denver, try our local yarns. We carry Vermont-origin yarns from Moonlit Meadows, Parris Hill Alpaca, Mt. Ascutney Farm, Mt. Nickwauket farm, Land and Lamb, and Underandover.

We also carry fantastic gift ideas made by local artisans. We have hand-knit hats, clogs, and mittens, handwoven scarves, boundwoven rugs, runners, and baskets, handmade rugs and quilts, pottery items, dichroic glass jewelry, handcrafted scarf and shawl pins, baby shoes, little lambs, felted bowls, felted

critters, wall hangings, felted pins, and whimsical birdhouses. We are proud and amazed at the creativity in our midst.

Store Happenings

Quilters Break All the Rules at 6 Loose Ladies

On the 3rd Sunday of each month, the studio at 6 Loose Ladies is in the hands of the quilters. Are you imagining billowing yards of fabric and the hum of sewing machines, while the afternoon sunlight flashes on the razor-sharp edges of the rotary cutters? Picture instead a dozen women sketching kitchen utensils. Or cutting designs from paint chips taken from local hardware stores under false pretenses. Well yes, it felt somewhat strange to us too, and there was more than a little nervous laughter as we labored over our portraits of strainers and spaghetti tongs, but we have all decided that it is time to push beyond the tyranny of the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. We are making art quilts. During the winter, we will meet each month to learn new techniques such as photo transfer, thread painting, and embellishing with everything from beads to found objects, and more important, to go beyond the patterns and the rules to make pieces that are uniquely our own. Look for a show of our work next spring!

Theme Times

Now that we have the use of the Salon (okay, formerly known as the back room), we are extending an invitation to fiber folk to join us on Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons for theme times. We are designating certain Thursdays (5-9p.m.) and Sundays (noon-4p.m.) to certain fiber disciplines. Here goes:

1st Sunday and 1st Thursday of the month - spinners galore. Come, bring your fiber, wheel or drop spindle and spin away the hours!

2nd Sunday and 2nd Thursday of the month - hookers in residence. Ladies, bring your stuff and hook the night/afternoon away. You can be traditional or you can punch, locker or latch, and rug braiders are more than welcome!

3rd Sunday and 3rd Thursday of the month - quilters rule. Bring your fabric and needles and share the camaraderie of other quilters.

4th Sunday and 4th Thursday of the month - knitters and crochet fiends. Haul that stash to the Salon and needle away the hours.

Don't think that you can't come if you don't pursue the craft of the day. Bring anything you're working on and come anytime. You can always learn something new.

In the Salon (back room) we have old issues from the 70's, 80's and 90's of Fiber Arts, Shuttle, Spindle and DyePot, Handwoven, Handweaver and Craftsman, Weavers Journal, American Craft, and Quilter's Newsletter. There are a few other assorted odd things there too. Feel free to come in and peruse them for ideas and inspiration.

Spinners

Not to be outdone by the Quilters and their Art Quilt Workshops on their theme days, spinners will have some interesting times on their theme days in 2009. We will have a different fiber featured each month - with some for each person to play with and hopefully someone who can talk about the animal and the fiber. Fibers to be featured will include Icelandic, Navajo-churro, Rambouillet, Shetland, Border-Leicester.

The Northeast Handspinners Association (NHA) is a pan-New England organization (serving Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and New York) for the promotion and education of the art and craft of handspinning. NHA provides a communications network for individuals and groups, and gives handspinners the opportunity to share, learn, educate, compete, and cooperate on a regional basis. NHA sponsors and supports events to bring spinners from the Northeastern states together, including workshops, open houses, skein contests, grants to guilds and fairs, and scholarships. Their quarterly newsletter, *Spindles & Rovings*, is our members' source of information on upcoming events, spinning tips, articles and reports on what the NHA, guilds, and groups are doing throughout the Northeast. The Gathering, a biennial weekend spinning retreat that features the best in spinning classes with respected teachers from all over the US and Canada, is held in even years. A biennial, one-day spinning Open House is held in odd years. Venues for both events move around the Northeast. Contact Linda Diak, Grafton Fibers at tidiak@aol.com, or Farilyn Van Cleef at farilyn@aol.com.

Rug Hookers

The Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild is one of the largest rug hooking guilds in the country. It sponsors an annual show at the Shelburne Museum in November, has guild-wide hook-ins and provides a wealth of information about local hooking groups. Please refer to their web page at www.GreenMountainRugHookingGuild.org.

The Association of Traditional Hooking Artists is dedicated to the art of rug hooking. Visit them at www.atharugs.com .

THANKS

We couldn't make things work without our Guardian Angels and benefactors - Charlene Clifford, Jane Hart, LouAnn Duffy, Mara Novak. These people have donated much-needed funding to help us grow and pursue our mission. Their desire to share our mission is greatly appreciated.

We also couldn't make things work without all those who volunteer their time to work in the store and teach classes. These people make Fiber Arts in Vermont and Six Loose Ladies truly unique. The store is a business, with all the headaches and demands of every business, but is run solely by volunteers who donate countless of hours and miles to make it work. If you'd like to be a volunteer in this endeavor, please don't hesitate to call or email us!!

Membership news

A gentle reminder that your Fiber Arts in Vermont membership will expire at the end of the year. Please note that there is space at the bottom of the membership application to indicate your fiber preference (knit, crochet, spin, quilt, weave, rug hook, whatever). Please take the time to indicate your fiber preference so that we can make sure you get information specific to your interests.

Classifieds



Farm Town Realty
231 Depot Street
Proctorsville, VT 05153
(on the Okemo Shuttle Bus Route)

Office: (802) 226-8022 ext. 103
Toll Free: (800) 659-1819 ext. 103
Cell: (802) 353-1983

E-mail: Irene@isellvermontrealestate.com

www.isellvermontrealestate.com

Pam Shepard, Pamsheperd@aol.com, 802-457-3776, has Border-Leicester fleeces which she will give in exchange for skeins of handspun yarn. If you are interested, contact her. The fleeces we picked up from her last year were very nice!

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SOLID MAPLE. EXCELLENT CONDITION. \$700.00

40"w x 42"h x 32" d (folds to 20"d)

INCLUDES: 3 reeds, warping rack, several shuttles, bobbin winders and bobbins.

Call Nancy - 201-784-5614 or e-mail nkihn@hotmail.com



FREE Leclerc Loom, 48" with bench, shuttles and other items. Call Paolo at 802-293-5894, evenings.

Marian White of Land & Lamb is looking for someone with a knitting machine to knit some sweaters. Please contact her at

Landlamb@hughes.net .

Mary Lou Svendsen would like someone to spin her Samoyed dog's hair. Please contact her at 802-885-5634 or 843-705-5624 if you are interested.

FAVT Mission

Fiber Arts in Vermont is a non-profit membership organization that supports and encourages all creative fiber arts, provides a wide range of educational opportunities within this venue, coordinates resources, and fosters an atmosphere of communication within the fiber arts.

FAVT Board of Directors

| | | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------------|--------|
| Anne Gottier | President, Classes Jury | Ann Dortch Lynne Croswell | Events |
| Sandy Gregg | Vice President and Store Madam | | |
| Nancy Kelley | Treasurer, Membership, Newsletter, Website | | |
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| Suzanne Lawler | Window Display & R&D | | |

Fiber Arts in Vermont Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Email: _____
(email address required in order to receive e-newsletter)

Membership year is on a calendar year basis. Current membership year ends December 31, 2008.

_____ \$15 Student (under 18)/Senior (Over 55): discounts on FAVT classes, e-newsletter, and invitations to special events

_____ \$35 Supporting member: all the above benefits, plus 5% discount on non-consignment items at Six Loose Ladies store

_____ \$50-\$999 Benefactor: all the above, acknowledgment in FAVT publications, our gratitude

_____ \$1,000 + Guardian Angel: all the above, plus lifetime membership in FAVT and our endless appreciation

_____ TOTAL

Mail, with check payable to Fiber Arts in Vermont, to Fiber Arts in Vermont, P.O. Box 166, Proctorsville, VT 05153, or hand deliver to Six Loose Ladies store.

Please indicate your fiber preferences (i.e. knit, crochet, spin, rug hook, weave, quilt): _____