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We hope your holiday season was a great one, as was ours with all the grandchildren, it was truly fun and special. Since our last newsletter, we have had some changes in staff. We were sad to have lost Agnes to a closer job to her new home, but were very pleased and excited to have hired Maria Flather to take her place as Class coordinator. Welcome Maria!

She worked hard calling most of our class lists organizing new classes for the next few months, and we are very busy with classes, which is always a good thing. We started a Monday morning class with Jean on Learn to Knit and make it fit, level 1, and have a list of folk who would like to start in April, so if you have considered this class, now is the time to commit to learning these wonderful Japanese knitting methods. See more on last page.

Class news! With Jean

Wong, 1 day 6 hour workshop, Tailored Knitting the Japanese Way, \$120, including supplies and lunch. After choosing your yarn and knitting a swatch, you will bring it to the workshop and she will show you how to measure, calculate and draft your own pattern for a vest. Get your name on the list so we can get this class started! Will be a Sunday.

Jean came back from the Madrona Fiber Arts Retreat with great news! She will be arranging to teach a Nihon Vogue 1st year in the USA. We are so pleased for her, and know that this is the beginning of expanded possibilities of the best knitting techniques encroaching on the North American knitter! Hopefully there will be more Nihon Vogue teachers coming up in the future, with these classes!

Shop hours
Tues. – Sat. 10-5:30PM
Sun. & Mon. 12-5PM
We are open
Every day, except Christmas,
Boxing and New Years Days

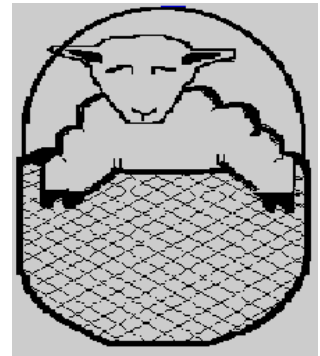
The West Coast Knitter's Guild is moving their meetings to the Senior centre west side of Oakridge mall at 41st Ave. and Cambie, Vancouver, meetings will still be first Tues of the month except for 1st meeting Jan. 9th. See their site www.westcoastknittersguild.org There are some folk who live in the Richmond area who may wish to gather somewhere close by. Some gather here last Fri. of the month from 1-4PM. Drop in and enjoy some tea or coffee and cookies and knit together.

Don't forget to ask for your **PassionKnitter's club discount card!** Filled cards are added up and you receive 10% of what you have spent off your next project. (Ex. If you spent \$1,000 on full priced yarn, you get \$100 credit off your next project): Filled cards go into a once a year draw Christmas time, and the drawn customer receives a \$50 gift certificate to the store!

Watch our website for details on our upcoming Skacel Trunk show and yarn tasting party.

Skacel rep meeting.

Denis and I attended a Skacel reps meeting last week in Seattle where we had the privilege of meeting Mr. Schuler of Schulana Yarns in Switzerland and Mr. Zitron of Zitron Yarns of Germany. They each gave us a presentation about their yarns, and it was wonderful to learn first hand about what makes their yarns unique and superior to others on the market. Mr. Schuler told us about his Schulana Cashmere Trend, for instance, and how many on the market are 2 ply, whereby his is 14 plys tightly wound to prevent pilling. All that and a huge range of glorious



colour! Their fabulous drapey new "Sojabama" was 2 years in production and it's quality higher than any other bamboo on the market because it is made from the stalk of young plants, not pulp or leftover fibers (this yarn uses the chain system of manufacture which ensures less pilling). Your garment needs less balls because it is lightweight with more yardage. Bamboo is antibacterial, hypoallergenic, very strong, the addition of soy adds strength & wicks moisture away from body. They use bamboo made in France, sourced from Japan.

We gave you the sad news about Marion Topping's demise November 8th, and the family's wishes for donations to Marion Topping scholarship fund—to be mailed to the Richmond Retired Teacher's Scholarship Fund, c/o General Currie School, 8220 General Currie Rd., Richmond, BC, V6Y 1M1. Bill Topping will be delivering all of her stash of Shetland Yarns to the store tomorrow, and I would love to sell them to you with all proceeds to the scholarship fund in her name, which has reached \$5,000 at this point. Make sure you come in and have a look at the lovely colours of this special traditional Fair Isle wool. Marion would be very pleased.

While you are checking these yarns out, make sure you see the wonderful sock yarn Zitron's Trekking which we are watching flying out the door, along with their Pro Natura bamboo/wool sock yarn with it's lovely subtle colourations. Also restocked are many solid coloured sock yarns Confetti and Preface. We also have coming some Divine, alpaca/silk and Adagio, llama/silk for mid season, Farfalla, a

fancy feltable, and Schulana's Feeling, a sumptuous new fur blend.



Unikat sweater cover of new magazine from Zitron. Mr. Zitron told us that his company has the only machines in the world which are as technical. Each skein of their marvelous extra fine merino prefelted "Unikat" has 24-26 colours in it, and it takes 1 hour to produce only 1 ½ kilos by hand painting, this is very slow production! He refuses to compromise his visions for his yarns by using cheaper fiber and production techniques. His Merino blend Trekking has a very high micron of 23, most other sock yarns on the market are 28-30. You may have noticed "extra fine merino" designation on some yarns, it means that the yarn has 19 microns (1,000th of a millimeter) no more no less, a lower micron merino can't be used to produce yarn, and a higher # is not as good quality.

Some new samples you can see in the store are a pink summer tank top with a fancy yarn collar which you may have seen in the spring 06 Knitter's magazine but I used only 4 balls of the very elastic Schulana Supercotton, not 8, like the pattern calls for, by using less stitches and larger needles. I will have a rewrite of the pattern available for those whose wish to make this lovely little top. We also have 2 new sweaters made from the fabulous extra fine merino Karabella Aurora 8, a peach turtleneck pullover and a shaped fuchsia cardigan, a pink Karabella lace mohair shawl, Karabella's Gossamer shawl in brown, a Berroco Keltic vest, Berroco's smart mohair vest, "Twinkle" shrug in Big Wool from Vogue Knitting, Needful Yarns

Kristine capelet, and Berroco's Hip hop "Mai Tai" baby coat.

New yarns in stock, since last newsletter, still for fall/winter knitting and new yarns Coming for Spring/Summer 2007, We have Skacel/Zitron's feltable merino Loft self-striping chunky weight comes in gorgeous colours and doesn't need winding into a ball or doubling for all those great bag patterns, (see the new Noni Bag patterns in store), their new Prisma Mohair colours are irresistible and also self stripe, with 150m/50g, that is half again as much as most chunky weight mohairs! We also have a good selection of their mohair/wool Fuego. We have a sampling of the great Zitron Trekking sock yarn for socks and new children's sweater patterns from our local designer Holly Yeoh of beeskneesknits.ca. For Spring/summer, we will bring in their fabulous Schulana Sojabama, the bamboo/soy blend mentioned earlier, along with their new booklet of patterns, and their Urban silk, an 80% silk, 20% cotton, yummy!

From Nashua Handknits, see Creative Focus Chunky, Equinox Stripe, (see coat below) Painted Forest and Wooly Stripes, along with some great pattern support. westminsterfibers.com



From Simply Shetland, we have the Jamieson's Spinning Shetland Heather Aran and Shetland Dk for 3 of the felted knitted handbags from the incredible Nicky Epstein book "Fabulous Felted Bags", Wisterias, Fuchsias and Jacobean.

From Berroco We have some of most of the yarns in their current line, make sure you check out their website for quick last minute gift ideas, we have most of the pattern books they mention, plus they have

lots of free patterns on their site. berroco.com. For spring/summer 07, we have ordered more, and their new Touche, Cotton Viscose Colour "Bonsai" bamboo ribbon, see patterns at Berroco.com.



Idol, touché



cotton twist colours

From one of our most popular basic yarn suppliers, Sirdar, sirdar.co.uk, for those of you who love to knit with a light weight acrylic blend, we have been stocking Country Style DK in many colours, and a new put-up, 100g balls. Their new Zanzibar is a fabulous furry glitzy concoction in awesome colours with great pattern support. We also brought in some more of the Snuggly dk and snowflake dk, and we have new colours coming in the snuggly dk and tiny tots dk with loads of new patterns. A new yarn for 07 will be a printed cotton blend ribbon called "Surfer" with some great patterns. Wait till you see their new luxury line designs, "Sublime". They are!



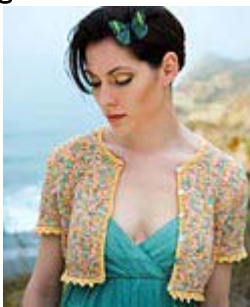
From Karabella Yarns we have the wonderful Italian Aurora 8 (see knittersreview.com for comments on this wonderful extrafine merino) for your aran weight patterns, and we have some Gossamer, Lace Mohair, Marble, Soft Tweed, and New Magic. I think their pattern support is superb, what do you think? karabellayarns.com. we will have some colours of their Zodiac, and Fireworks, and patterns to go with.

Manos del Uruguay which knits at 14-18 stitches to 4 inches, perfect for your fall/winter jackets

and chunky pullovers available in US for 25 years. This is a gorgeous 100% wool blend of merino and corriedale, handspun and kettle dyed by a co-op of 1,000 rural Uruguayan artisan women, the sale of which provides economic and social opportunities. Manos had it's beginning about 1850. In the northeast area of Paysandu province where the Uruguay River flows, the sheep graze in meadows strewn with the round geodes of agate stone. These stones, when split open reveal intricate layers of soft colours which blend into each other. These stone formations so influenced the wife of a sheep herder when she was dyeing the family yarn that she set out to duplicate the effect. There is no equal to the colours in this yarn.

From **Rowan**, we have Kid Classic, Soft Baby, Romance, Tapestry, wool cotton, Country, Little Big Wool, Big Wool, Biggy Print, Kid Silk Night, 4 ply soft, lurex shimmer. We will have Denim, Calmer, and lots of wool cotton, one of our faves, great for year round projects. From **Noro**, we have new colours in Iro, Kochoran, Aurora, Kureyon, and Silk Garden.

From **Louisa Harding** we brought in Liberty Boucle and we have coming for Spring her Coquette, Mariposa and Sari Ribbon, her designs are awesome!



We finally have **Debbie Bliss's** cotton denim aran book and some of the yarn left to knit these great designs and will have lots more Baby Cashmerino and Cashmerino Aran for spring/summer. From **Elsbeth Lavold**, we will have Hempathy, a gorgeous hemp blend, and patterns to go with.

From **Filatura Di Crosa** we have new colours of the lovely Multicolour mohair and a little garter stitch sample sweater and watch for more Muse, also "Mama" for lovely baby garments for their great patterns for little ones.

From **Needful Yarns**, we have new colours of Van Dyck, Kristine, Kabir, Nathan, Joy, Piccadilly.

From **Stacy Charles** we have Ritratto, micio, venus and luxor.

From **estelledesigns.ca**, we look forward to more "Eden" Bamboo in solids and multicolours, and Dalegarn Svale in some new colours. This yarn is a gorgeous quality which gets overlooked, a cotton silk blend with luster and drape which stands up very well and has their wonderful pattern support.



From **Garnstudio.com**, we will have their fabulous cotton Muskat in several colours, see the many patterns you can use on their site.

From **fleeceartist.com**, & **handmaiden**, the wonderful handpainted natural fibre yarns from Nova Scotia, we will bring in a 2/12 Suri alpaca/bluefaced Leicester blend they are introducing after Christmas.



Fleece Artist Maid Marion Vest

Tis the season when most shop at the mall,
but not us knitters, we're not crazy as y'all.
We lounge at home in front of our fires,
knitting last minute sweaters,
proving 'selves liars.
For didn't we proclaim just ten months ago,
that we'd complete our gift knitting before the first snow?
And didn't we swear to ourselves up and down,
that we'd use yarn from our stash and not buy more in town?
But hey, what the heck, the new yarns are delightful,
And some of that stash, well, it's just plain frightful!
So with new yarns in hand, we'll knit, rip out or whatever,
until satisfied with our latest endeavor.
Then we'll wrap it in paper so pretty,
we bought the whole lot full,
just to hear those satisfying last words,
"Did you make it yourself? How thoughtful!"*
Of course beginning of January, when all holidays gone by,
we'll swear next year's projects will be done by July.

Living and working in a small town like Steveston has many advantages. I tripped out yesterday to do a little shopping for Denis to celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary, grabbed a bit of lunch at the lunch and coffee spot around the corner, Steveston Coffee House. Returned to the store, ate my delicious salmon chowder and half veggie sandwich and resumed work on this newsletter. About an hour later, Steve, the owner of said Coffee House walked in the door. Was he thinking of taking up knitting? "Did you lose some money?" he said. I searched my purse for the little wad I had put there 2 days ago, and there was none. "Here you go, found it on the floor after you left." Embarrassed at my stupidity, but so grateful for his honesty, and his own hand roasted organic fair trade West Coast blend coffee, as well! Thank you Steve!

Classes

An Ode to Knitters

Please note: We offer the very best available teachers and we encourage you to purchase your yarns here before class in order to keep your fees low, and class size small. Free parking behind store. All yarns & accessories 10% off while class in session.
Call now 275-1239 to register, or for more information, class size limited to 8 students. * indicates new classes

Knitting with Venessa Bentley

Now teaching knitting all over the lower mainland, Venessa has a wide knowledge and experience in teaching (she's an elementary school teacher) along with a wonderful manner and warm personality, which makes her a popular and much loved knitting teacher for both adults and children. These classes are ongoing, so we can't keep up with start dates. Get your name on the list and we will call you for the next available class of your choice of time.

Beginner knitting

\$85.00, 6 weeks. Wed. or Sat. with Venessa Bentley. Learn to knit, then knit your choice of project, a fun and rewarding class. You won't believe the finished projects.

Basic knitting skills required for the following classes (you can cast on, knit, and purl).

Intermediate knitting

\$85.00 6 weeks, some spots left Fri. nights, 7-9PM, Jan.19/07-Feb.23/07) or a couple of spots left Sat. morn. Dec.16-Jan. 27/07, 10:30-12:30 or aft. 1-3PM, with Venessa, knit your choice of project. Challenge yourself beyond basics.

*To be organized soon, get your name on the list, some are already close to full

2 Socks on 1 needle, \$80 Dec. 9/06-Jan. 13/07, 3:30-5:30 toe up, 5 weeks. Must have made socks before

Hands Up! Wed. morns. 10:30-12.30, Jan.17-Feb.21*/07. Mittens, gloves, fingerless gloves 6 weeks, \$85.00

Socks for beginners Jan. 20/07-Feb.10/07, 3:30-50 4 weeks, \$65

Crochet Project class 6 weeks \$85
Knitting up a Winter Sotrm 3 weeks, \$42.50

Entrelac Scarf

Felting 3 weeks, \$50

Moebius workshop 4 weeks, \$65

Basic Fair Isle, 4 weeks, \$65

Fair Isle, 10 weeks

Cast on and off 4 hour workshop

Assembling and Finishing

Brioche and Double Knitting Sat. afts. 3:30-5:30PM

Toys

Gourmet Knitting 6 weeks/\$85

Crochet Scarf or Shawl, mohair with beads

Sampler Workshop

\$150.00 10wks. Can be Sat aft. 3:30-5:30PM, or Wed. morn. 10:30-12.30. Learn to knit aran, intarsia, Entrelac, fairisle and other knitting patterns in sampler sizes with Venessa. Can be joined into an afghan.

Nihon Vogue Certificate Knitting Course

These classes are the first and only in North America. Next Nihon Vogue 1st year will start Jan./07. Get your name on the list right away, as there are only 8 spaces available. These are certificate classes with Nihon Vogue Knitting School of Japan affiliation. You too can become a certified Nihon Vogue instructor. Nihon Vogue has had a school operating in Japan for 52 years, and has trained 50,000 plus knitting instructors! This is like a University Knitting course. This first year knitting school is one year in duration, with a once a week class for 5 weeks, then 2 weeks off, repeating for the year. The tuition is \$1050, payable first day of class, (deposit needed to hold your place) including \$150 for a set of 4 texts, good for the first 2 years of the course. (Second year tuition will be around same price, using texts you already have). This 1 year knitting course is appropriate for all skill levels, from beginner to master knitters. Even master knitters have learned much from Jean. Your first seven projects will be

1. pull-over vest with no shaping, your choice of boat, V neck or round neck;
2. top down sweater (or fair-isle yoke top down if you have already done this workshop with her);
- 4 set in sleeve sweaters:
3. pullover round neck,
4. pullover V-neck,
5. Cardigan round neck,
6. cardigan V-neck
7. Crochet vest.
8. design your own.

Attendance will be taken, and your projects marked. Certificates not issued if you miss more than 6 classes.

Week of 15th Jan./07 possible start date for next Nihon Vogue classes.

The 3rd and 4th year will be combined into 16 months, 1st half is design from swatch, no garments made, 2nd half is learning to be a teacher. Further info to come, once price, etc. decided.

Learn to Knit and Make it Fit

Jean Wong teaches the following classes, Nihon Vogue trained with 9 years teaching experience in a Taiwanese knitting school. For perfect results, we

suggest this challenging series; we have had all levels of knitters, from intermediate skills to masters, all learning many expert techniques. All students begin with level 1. We offer day and evening classes. These are an abbreviated version of the Nihon Vogue certificate class, no certificate offered, for those who don't wish to commit to a year of school. See knittingwithjean.com.

Professional finishing, level 1

\$150 for 10 wks. Daytime, or eves., 7-9PM. You will knit a cardigan vest, from scratch (no pattern to follow) round neck, shaped armholes. Learn the exacting Japanese knitting techniques, and learn how to knit to fit, without following someone else's pattern

Professional finishing, level 2

\$150 for 10 wks. Graduates of level 1, knit a long sleeve v-neck cardigan. Learning perfect armhole shaping for set-in sleeves, perfect set-in sleeve shaping, vertical bands with short rowing for buttonholes, short row shoulder shaping, invisible cast on and off, some pattern drawing. Get your name on the list for the next class

Professional finishing, level 3

\$150 for 10 wks. Graduates of level 1 & 2 learn more about Japanese knitting techniques, matching patterns at side and shoulder seams, armhole shaping and math involved, shaping collars, you will be making a lace or aran cardigan.

Professional finishing, level 4

\$150, for 10 wks. Get your name on the list for the next class. Graduates of level 3 knit a raglan v-neck pullover, matching patterns perfectly, using stitch patterns, and using one colour yarn

Professional finishing, Level 5

\$150 for 10 wks. Get your name on the list for the next class. Graduates of Level 4 will learn new techniques

Introductory Workshop with Jean Wong

No previous classes with Jean required

*Tailored Knitting the Japanese Way

Let us know your availability, and we will tailor this class around the students, as usual. 1 day, 6 hour workshop, \$120, including supplies and lunch. After choosing your yarn and knitting a swatch, you will bring it to the workshop and she will show you how to measure, calculate and draft your own pattern for a vest. Get your name on the list so we can get this class started