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Authentic Expression at Your Fingertips

Winter 2010

Holiday Greetings!

The holiday season is a time not just of cheer and celebration, but of reflection and gratitude. There is no doubt that 2009 was a challenging year for most of us, but therein lies the blessing: we made it! That year is over and promise is in the air. Things are improving little by little. At So Much Yarn, we are grateful that it has been a wonderful, busy fall and it just keeps getting busier! Beginning classes are filling up, and we welcome all those new knitters to our fiber family. It truly IS a family, especially when I see customers returning regularly to intermediate classes for the fifth year (we call them "Lifers." and you know who you are)! We have lots of new classes on our schedule, plus returning favorites, to keep you busy all Winter. So light the fire, let it snow (or not!!), and let the fun begin...

Free Holiday Knitting Circle, Sat. 12/19, 12:00—4:00

This is the Grand Finale of our "Month of Last Minute Knitting." Whether you are frantically finishing projects for holiday giving, or finally allowing yourself a moment of relaxation, we invite you to come knit with us on Saturday, December 19th, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. There is no charge for this gathering, but Lauren will be available to answer questions and offer assistance if needed. Whether you come for 15 minutes or the full 4 hours is up to you. Of course, this is also a great excuse for us to provide wine, tea and other fun snacks to help you keep your energy up and the needles flying. Don't miss this fun event!

Favorite Yarns, Projects and Accessories

We have gone crazy for Berroco "Sundae." This amazing, superbulky yarn is half wool and half acrylic, which makes it lighter weight. The colors are all beautifully heathered and have just a touch of sheen. It is deliciously soft and we can barely keep it in stock. We just got an order in and another is on the way. One skein makes the amazing ribbed hat "Erich's A&F Knockoff Hat," found on Ravelry. You can make this hat in less than two hours, which means Santa's elves can still finish several before the holidays. Or, make the Berroco cowl pattern using four skeins and two big buttons....the height of fashion, softness that can't be beat. Come see our samples.

Speaking of bulky yarns, whip up an incredibly stylish cabled shrug from Classic Elite's book Snow Day. It is knit on #17 needles and knits up in no time. Ginger is making one, I am on my second and Carmel is on her third! They are great gifts because the style looks great on all shapes and sizes, but one size fits all. The cabling is a bit more complicated, creating a shifting horseshoe look, but is easier than you think. If you want help, we are even offering a four-hour workshop. See the class schedules for details.

On a smaller gauge, I am in love with Willow Tweed from Louisa Harding. Of all things, I'm using it to make the Whirligig baby shrug from Interweave Knits Weekend issue. Alpaca, wool, and silk on a #6 needle, combined with a tweedy fleck, make this yarn irresistible. If worsted is your thing, Louisa's "Thistle" is to die for. Come see the "Clemence" lace cowl I made with it and you'll see why I am addicted. By the way, one ball of thistle makes the cowl!

For those of you who have long been hooked on our Blue Heron "Rayon Metallic," you wish has come true: new colors have arrived! Our favorite project with this yarn is still "Clapotis" from knitty.com, and most of us have made more than one color. You may want to follow Ginger's lead and use it for an entrelac scarf! In any event, new colors include a solid silver, and almost solid cream, bright berry, denim blues, olive greens, an awesome brick red and a fabulous blue/purple combination. Hurry...they're flying out the door as we speak.

From the accessories category, what can we say: Addi Click needle sets are in. They have been so popular that it took months to get our first shipment. We only have five sets left, so if you've put them on your Wish List, give the elves a nudge, ok? If it's regular needles you need to organize, we are happy to be the only Seattle yarn shop carrying beautiful one-of-a-kind needle cases from Yours By Design. Kathy Schreiman makes these from recycled wool sweaters which she felts and then forms into different sized cases, all lined with vintage fabrics and divided to hold your needles and hooks. They all uniquely embellished with felted or crocheted flowers or big, funky buttons.

When it comes to knitting bags, you'll love the Namaste styles we have in stock. Zuma is a medium sized bag, and Hermosa is a bigger tote size. Both can double as a purse or "everything" bag so you have everything from keys to knitting to cell phone always with you, all the time. On a smaller scale, check out the little Buddy Case, which is an ingenious design for holding smaller notions. It's "hard case" exterior unsnaps to reveal two storage sections which are magnetized to help hold small scissors or darning needles in place. These are so cute, I even want one just to put my jewelry in when I travel. At \$14.95, they are a fabulous gift for any knitter on your list.

As you can see, the fun just keeps rolling in. I will force myself to stop trying to tell you about everything here because the good news is that you can now...

Become a Fan of So Much Yarn

Yes....it's true! So Much Yarn finally has a Facebook page. Visit us now and become a Fan. As you all know, I am hopelessly resistant to anything "techno," but I am finally convinced. I even got a new phone so taking pictures and uploading messages directly to Facebook will be a snap (or so They tell me). I can even text message now. It does seem pretty easy....you heard me say it. I love that I can now keep in touch with any of you who so desire, with quick little messages about new yarn arrivals, special sales, favorite projects, or maybe even just pictures of Angus and Fiona!

The Annual Inventory Clearance Sale

It just wouldn't be a New Year Celebration without our favorite tradition: the legendary **Inventory Clearance Sale**. This year, the date will be **Saturday, January 2nd** (so be careful how much liquid celebrating you do). As usual, the sale begins at 9:00 a.m. and applies to ALL YARN. The discount on yarn will be 30% from 9:00-11:00 a.m.; 25% from 11:01 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 20% the rest of the day. Come with plenty of time and an attitude of playfulness, and have a great time stocking up for New Year projects. Sale applies to stock on hand only. Remember, no returns on sale merchandise, and this is the one day of the year we do not punch your Customer Appreciation Card.

Lauren

Fall 2009 Class Schedule

THE BASICS

Beginning Knitting

Skill Level: None!

Monday

6:00—8:00 p.m. | 1/4, 11, 18, 25 & 2/1 (w/Teresa)
6:00—8:00 p.m. | 2/8, 15, 22, 3/1 & 8 (w/Lauren)
6:00—8:00 p.m. | 3/15, 22, 29, 4/5 & 12 (w/Teresa)

Duration: 5 Week, 10 Hours

Fee: \$75.00

Saturday (w/Lauren)

10:30-12:30 | 1/9, 16, 23, 30 & 2/6
3:30—5:30 | 3/6, 13, 20, 27 & 4/3

From start to finish, this class contains everything you need to know to make a basic garment. Students learn to cast on, knit, purl, increase, decrease, read/interpret patterns, fix mistakes, bind off and finish (put together) all the pieces. You will work on a practice swatch throughout the class, but will also work on a project of your choice (from our guided selection of options). Whether you've never held needles before, or just need to brush up on skills that have gotten dusty, this class is a great choice. (Ask for supply list)

Intermediate Knitting (and Crochet!)

with Lauren Lindeman

Skill Level: Beyond Beginning**Sunday**

10:00—12:00 | 1/10, 17, 24, 31 & 2/7
 10:00—12:00 | 2/14, 21, 28, 3/7 & 21 (skip 3/14)
 12:30—2:30 p.m. | 12/6, 13, 20, 27 & 1/3
 12:30—2:30 p.m. | 1/10, 17, 24, 31 & 2/7
 12:30—2:30 p.m. | 2/14, 21, 28, 3/7 & 21 (skip 3/14)
 3:00—5:00 p.m. | 12/6, 13, 20, 27 & 1/3
 3:00—5:00 p.m. | 1/10, 17, 24, 31 & 2/7
 3:00—5:00 p.m. | 2/14, 21, 28, 3/7 & 21 (skip 3/14)

Tuesday

10:30—12:30 p.m. | 11/24, 12/1, 8, 15 & 22
 10:30—12:30 p.m. | 12/29, 1/5, 12, 19 & 26
 10:30—12:30 p.m. | 2/2, 9, 16, 23 & 3/2
 10:30—12:30 p.m. | 3/9, 23, 30, 4/6 & 13 (skip 3/16)
 6:00—8:00 p.m. | 11/24, 12/1, 8, 15 & 22
 6:00—8:00 p.m. | 12/29, 1/5, 12, 19 & 26
 6:00—8:00 p.m. | 2/2, 9, 16, 23 & 3/2
 6:00—8:00 p.m. | 3/9, 23, 30, 4/6 & 13 (skip 3/16)

Duration: 5 Week, 10 Hours

Fee: \$65.00

Wednesday

10:30—12:30 p.m. | 12/9, 16, 30, 1/6 & 13 (skip 12/23)
 10:30—12:30 p.m. | 1/20, 27, 2/3, 10 & 17
 10:30—12:30 p.m. | 2/24, 3/3, 10, 17 & 24
 1:00—3:00 p.m. | 12/9, 16, 30, 1/6 & 13 (skip 12/23)
 1:00—3:00 p.m. | 1/20, 27, 2/3, 10 & 17
 1:00—3:00 p.m. | 2/24, 3/3, 10, 17 & 24
 6:00—8:00 p.m. | 12/16, 30, 1/6, 13 & 20 (skip 12/23)
 6:00—8:00 p.m. | 1/27, 2/3, 10, 17 & 24
 6:00—8:00 p.m. | 3/3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

This is an ongoing, unstructured class that provides you with the individual instruction that YOU need. Whether you've just finished a beginning class and want the weekly support to finish your first project, or you've knitted for years but always known there were tricks that could make it easier and more fun, this is the perfect class for you. Students work on a project of their choice. Meanwhile we'll have tips and techniques to teach you that will improve your knitting AND you'll learn vicariously through the projects of your classmates!

Basic Finishing with Lauren Lindeman**Skill Level:** Beginning**Saturday** | 3:30—5:30 | 1/16**Duration:** 1 Week, 2 Hours**Fee:** \$25.00

Now that you've put lots of time, energy and love into those knitted pieces, you want the finished garment to look just as wonderful. This class covers all of the techniques you need to make finishing not only beautiful and professional, but faster and easier as well. Learn to sew seams, knit shoulder seams together, weave in tails, pick up stitches, make buttonholes and lots more. You'll never be afraid of finishing again! Perfect for brand new knitters. (Ask for supply/homework list)

Cables – The Basics with Lauren Lindeman**Skill Level:** Beginning**Saturday** | 1:00—3:00 | 3/13

Duration: 1 Week, 2 Hours

Fee: \$25.00

If you've never tried cables, this class is for you. They are lots of fun and much easier than they look when you know a few basics. You will learn how to twist a basic cable (with and without a cable needle), read the directions either in words or from a chart, keep track of where you are in the pattern, and how cables affect your gauge and your bind-off. If time permits, we'll even try some more advanced cables. (Ask for supply list)

Crochet Basics with Lauren Lindeman**Skill Level:** None!**Saturday** | 3:30—5:30 | 2/6 & 13**Duration:** 2 Weeks, 4 Hours**Fee:** \$45.00

All the basics for creating beautiful, fun, yet simple crocheted projects! In this class, you will get comfortable with the basic stitches. You will also begin a project from our selection of fast and easy choices to inspire you on your journey into the world of crochet, including the popular market bag and basic beanie! We will also cover simple edgings, which can be used to finish knitting projects. (Ask for supply list)

PROJECTS AND SPECIAL TECHNIQUES

Cabled “Aspen” Shrug with Lauren Lindeman

Skill Level: Beyond Beginning

Saturday | 1:30—5:30 | 1/9

Duration: 1 Week, 4 Hours

Fee: \$45.00

Big shrugs and cowls are all the rage, and this one hits the top of the charts! It comes from the Classic Elite book “Snow Day” and is knit in the round on #17 needles, with a fabulous shifting “horseshoe” kind of cable that is a little trickier than a basic cable. In this 4-hour workshop, you will master both kinds of cable twists used, plus learn to read a chart in combination with knitted instructions. This project is truly a blast and somehow looks good on every shape and size. (Ask for supply list).

Snowboarder Hat with Lauren Lindeman

Skill Level: Beyond Beginning

Saturday | 1:00—3:00 | 1/16 & 23

Duration: 2 Weeks, 4 Hours

Fee: \$45.00

Thanks to Fiber Trends, we have been cranking out these great hats, complete with ear flaps and big chunky braids. It is knit on #15 needles, with either one strand of superbulky (like Burleyspun, Sundae, or Blizzard) OR you can double strand bulky, which gives you the option of mixing colors for a truly funky snowboarder look. Some ideas in that category are Lamb’s Pride Bulky, 128 Tweed, or Baby Alpaca Grande (one plain & one multi). I’ve made four already and I’m just getting warmed up. It’s a great class because you start by making the earflaps using a Make 1 increase. Then, you’ll create stitches between the earflaps using a knitted cast on, and join in the round to complete the body of the hat. The top comes to a slightly pointier finish. Finish it off with a single crochet edge and add the chunky braids from each earflap and even the top of the hat if desired. It almost makes you hope for snow. (Ask for supply list).

Socks with Lauren Lindeman

Skill Level: Beginning (no prior sock experience required)

Saturday | 3:30—5:30 p.m. | 1/23 & 30

Duration: 2 Weeks, 4 Hours

Fee: \$45.00

Socks are fast, portable, fun and ADDICTING! In this two-part class, you will learn to use double pointed needles, knit in the round, turn the heel, and all the necessary foot shaping, while making a real pair of socks on worsted weight yarn. Ask for supply list.

Jared Flood “Quincy” Hat with Lauren Lindeman

Skill Level: Beyond Beginner

Saturday | 1:00—3:00 p.m. | 1/30 & 2/6

Duration: 2 Weeks, 4 Hours

Fee: \$45.00

This is another ingenious design from the ever popular Jared Flood. He is an architectural genius when it comes to knitting. Beginning with a provisional cast-on, the main body of Quincy is a flat strip of garter stitch knit back and forth with built-in I-cord along both edges. That rectangle is then twisted once, and the ends are grafted together. Stitches for the crown are then picked up around this top I-cord edge. The top of the hat is finished as you would a traditional hat. Oh, and it’s all made on bulky gauge yarn so it knits up very quickly. Brilliant! (Ask for supply list).

Entrelac Scarf or Wrap with Lauren Lindeman

Skill Level: Intermediate

Saturday | 10:30—2:30 | 2/13

Duration: 1 Week, 4 Hours

Fee: \$45.00

Entrelac is an addictive stitch because you get instant gratification every time you finish a triangle or square. It looks like basket-weave on the diagonal, and each layer is built upon the previous one. Sections are simply joined by picking up stitches or knitting them together. It is so easy! Best of all, we’re using the glorious pattern from [Scarf Style](#) which is shown as a wrap but is easily reduced to scarf proportions. Our shop sample is a scarf version using “Autunno” which changes colors for you. Other favorite yarn choices are Blue Heron “Rayon Metallic,” Mountain Colors “River Twist” or “Twizzle,” and Plymouth “Kudo.” To top it off, the fringe is tied in a lattice design to make this scarf truly unique. (Ask for supply list).

Easy Lace Cowl with Lauren Lindeman
Skill Level: Beyond Beginner
Saturday | 1:30—5:30 | 2/20

Duration: 1 Week, 4 Hours
Fee: \$45.00

This pattern is a great way to learn all the basics of lace knitting, but is fun for more experienced knitters as well. We're using the "Clemence" pattern by Katya Frankel (free on Ravelry). It is a small cowl that stays up close to your neck and is knit in the round with worsted weight yarn. We used Louisa Harding "Thistle" (alpaca and merino) and it only takes one ball! You will learn to read a chart, and will become quite proficient in yarn over, K2tog, and SSK. We will also spend lots of time learning to "read" your knitting to know where you are in the pattern. (Ask for supply list).

Knitting 911 with Lauren Lindeman
Skill Level: Beyond Beginning
Saturday | 1:00—3:00 p.m. | 2/27

Duration: 1 Week, 2 Hours
Fee: \$25.00

Help! Emergency! What do I do now??? Ok, so we all have moments in our knitting when things go wrong. Never fear...this class will give you first aid techniques to handle everything from simple "unknitting" and picking up dropped stitches to literally cutting and removing a piece of your knitted garment. We will also discuss what to do in that dreaded moment when you realize you do not have enough yarn to finish the project! Please feel free to bring any challenges you are currently facing. Ask for supply/homework list.

Top Down Baby Sweater with Lauren Lindeman
Skill Level: Beyond Beginning
Saturday | 10:30—12:30 | 2/20 & 27

Duration: 2 Weeks, 4 Hours
Fee: \$45.00

If you love to knit but hate sewing the pieces together, this could be the class of your dreams! This baby sweater is knitted in the round, from the neck down, with absolutely no seams and very few tails to weave in as well. Once you learn the techniques on this tiny garment, you'll have a whole range of men's and women's cardigans and pullovers to choose from, courtesy of Knitting Pure & Simple (one of our new favorite pattern companies). The gauge is 4.5 stitches per inch, which makes it perfect for our favorite superwash: "Classy Worsted" from Dream in Color Yarns. (Ask for supply list).

My So Called Scarf with Lauren Lindeman
Skill Level: Beyond Beginner
Saturday | 1:00—3:00 p.m. | 3/6

Duration: 1 Week, 2 Hours
Fee: \$25.00

Another Ravelry favorite, this scarf really looks woven instead of knitted. It uses an unusual kind of "twist & knit" stitch, different on the right side and wrong side. Once you get the hang of it, it's really fast and easy and is perfect for variegated yarns. Our sample is made on #11 needles with Plymouth "Trabajos." Because of the tricky nature of the stitch, we will also spend some time learning how to fix any mistakes that might occur! (Ask for Supply List)

Clapotis Scarf with Lauren Lindeman
Skill Level: Beyond Beginner
Saturday | 10:30—12:30 | 3/6 & 13

Duration: 2 Weeks, 4 Hours
Fee: \$45.00

This just might be the most fun scarf you'll ever knit! It is a "classic" from the wonderful website knitty.com. It is just wide enough to wear as a wrap, but not so wide that you can't just scrunch it up into a fabulous scarf. The crazy fun of it is that every so often, you drop a stitch (yes...on purpose!) and let it run all the way down, creating a ladder effect. It is knit on the bias, so you begin at one end point, increase out to the desired width, continue straight for the desired length, then decrease to create the point at the opposite end, all the while dropping stitches! We adore it in Blue Heron "Rayon Glitter," but I just finished a fingering weight version in Plymouth "Happy Feet" which I want to wear every day! Oh—but wait! I also just finished one out of Plymouth "Kudo" which changes colors for you and is rayon, silk & cotton. You can also see tons of examples on Ravelry! Ask for supply list.

Socks on Two Circular Needles with Kristen Simpson
Skill Level: Beginning (no prior sock experience required)
Saturday | 10:30—12:30 | 3/20 & 27

Duration: 2 Weeks, 4 Hours
Fee: \$45.00

For those of you who simply cannot make friends with double pointed needles, but still want to experience the joy of sock knitting, this class is the answer. Kristen will teach you to use two circular needles instead! In addition, you will be knitting the socks from the toe up, which makes it easier to lengthen or shorten the socks according to how much yarn you have. In this class, you will do one sock at a time, but Kristen will explain how it is possible to knit both at once. Ask for supply list.

Intro to Intarsia with Lauren Lindeman
Skill Level: Beyond Beginner
Saturday | 1:00—3:00 p.m. | 3/20

Duration: 1 Week, 2 Hours
Fee: \$25.00

Intarsia is the technique of knitting color in just an isolated section of the garment, and NOT carrying it all the way across the row. There are some simple tricks to eliminate holes where your colors meet, keeping tangles to a minimum, and reading your chart correctly. Students have the option of making an adorable baby hat while perfecting these new skills. (Ask for supply list).

The “Pencil Method” of Knitting with Lauren Lindeman
Skill Level: Beyond Beginner
Saturday | 1:00—3:00 p.m. | 3/27

Duration: 1 Week, 2 Hours
Fee: \$25.00

Picking (or continental) holds the yarn in the left hand. Throwing (or English) method holds the yarn in the right hand. But wait!! There is yet another choice: The Pencil Method of Throwing. Many of you who have seen me knit have asked about this method, especially because I seem to knit so fast. You still hold the yarn in the right hand, so it is technically a “throwing” method. The difference is that you hold the right needle like a pencil, as if you were going to write your name. It allows for a much smaller motion than most throwing, thus allowing for greater speed and better ergonomics. (Ask for supply list).

Class Policies

Registration: Class registration begins immediately on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-payment is required at the time of registration to secure your space. You may register in person at the shop or by phone with a credit card. Classes fill quickly as space is limited, so be sure to call or stop by soon!

Class Discounts: You will receive a 10% discount on all materials purchased during the course of your class. This does not apply to class fees.

Cancellations: You may cancel up to one week before the class begins for a full refund. If you cancel later than that, we will issue a refund if we are able to fill your space. Naturally if we must cancel a class for any reason, we will issue a full refund.

Skill Levels: Each of our classes lists a skill level to assist you in choosing classes appropriate for your abilities.

- **Beginning** — Able to cast on, knit, purl, cast off, with some experience decreasing and increasing.
- **Beyond Beginning** — Comfortable with the above skills but still a bit nervous reading those patterns and tackling a sweater!
- **Intermediate** — Successfully completed a few projects/garments and able to read most patterns.

Private Instruction

Because we know making your life schedule match our class schedule can sometimes be a challenge, we also offer private instruction at the following hourly rates:

1 Student: \$40.00 | **1 - 3 Students:** \$60.00 (students share cost) | **4 Students:** \$80.00 (students share cost)

Call us now to schedule your own personalized class. Pre-payment is required to reserve your space. You will receive a 10% class discount on merchandise purchased the day of your class.

Gift Cards Are Available

Make the holidays truly special with a gift card from So Much Yarn. They are available in any amount you choose, so give your knitter the gift which is guaranteed to fit every time!



Namste items mentioned earlier: Buddy Cases on the left, Hermosa bag on the right!

Knitting at the Saratoga: November 12, 13 & 14, 2010

The focus of this weekend is rest and relaxation. Spend your time knitting with old and new friends. We treat the time like one of our Intermediate Knitting classes. In other words, there is no set project or start time each day, but I will be present to answer questions and assist with project challenges. You make your own schedule each day!

About The Saratoga: The Saratoga Inn is a charming 15-room inn in the village of Langley, with stunning views of water and mountains. It is walking distance to restaurants, shops and art galleries. Each room has its own fireplace and oversized shower. Each room has either a king or queen size bed. We will have the entire Inn to ourselves for the retreat. Check out pictures and more information at www.saratogainnwhidbeyisland.com. This is a great escape from the hectic energy of daily life, so sign up now to reserve your space!

Cost for the weekend is \$425.00 for single occupancy, \$285.00 per person for double occupancy. Just remember, if you share the room, you'll be sharing the bed as well!

Yes, I know it's a year away, but these retreats fill up quickly. Call us at 206-443-0727! We must receive your deposit of \$200.00 at the time of registration to officially reserve your space and the balance is due by November 1st. Deposit is non-refundable in the event you must cancel, UNLESS we are able to fill your space, in which case you will receive a full refund. We look forward to spending a fabulous weekend with you!

Happy Birthday to You!

As a way of saying "thank you" to all of you loyal customers, we have a birthday present for you: Come in on your birthday, and you will receive 10% off any merchandise purchase, plus a lot of good wishes from all of us at So Much Yarn. (We promise not to sing!)



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New Store Hours

Monday: Noon-6
Tuesday: 10-8
Wednesday: 10-6
Thursday: 10-6
Friday: 10-6
Saturday: 10-6
Sunday: Noon-5

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Holiday Closures

Please note that So Much Yarn will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday & Friday, 12/24 & 12/25

Thursday & Friday, 12/31 & 1/1

Free Holiday

Knitting Circle!

Saturday, December 19th

12:00—4:00 p.m.

See Inside for Details!