



In the Loop™

In the Loop Expands to Six Issues

With this edition, *In the Loop* expands to six issues annually – an increase of two releases: a later Autumn issue in October and a Summer edition in June.

The two new editions allow for reviews of more new books as well as publishing more articles of interest to knitters who patronize The Knit With.

Beginning with this edition, occasional articles will highlight the independent designers whose creativity contributes to the knitting scene. (See, *Designer's Spotlight*, page 2 – featuring **Dawn Brocco**). Especially written for *In the Loop*, Designer's Spotlight articles are based on interviews which explore not only the designer's motivations and design processes but also provides a connection to the knitter behind the designer.

In the next edition, look for a retrospective on *Vogue Knitting* – in commemoration of Vogue's 25th anniversary since its reprise in 1982. Also on the boards is a series of articles explaining the differences among various garment styles beginning with sleeve styles.

Multi-Cultural Knitting in Philly

In July and August, **Dawn Casale** spent Wednesday mornings with **I. Kemp, Tara** and **E. Swartzendruber-Landis, E. Khang,** and **H. Turner** at The Philadelphia Nationalities Center – which helps immigrants and refugees participate in society and eliminate barriers caused by language and cultural differences.

Dawn participated to use knitting as the medium to bridge experiences. The Center welcomes donations of yarns, to learn more contact Tara, the Center Director at 215-609-1545.



Applause, Applause :

Accomplished Knitters Graduate

Over the Summer, **Susan Darrah, Ann Morgan** and **Carole Hunsicker** completed **Introduction to Accomplished Knitting**, assembling and finishing their Shetland Lace vests.



All residents of Lansdale with previous knitting experience, the knitters desired a solid foundation in fundamental knitting skills, gained during the six week courses.

Editors' Note :

Satisfy Your Yearn to Learn

Dawn Brocco advises knitters to invest in themselves by investing in their knitting through reading and taking classes. (See, *Designers' Spotlight* page 2). Just knitting scarves, is not enough.

Mastering knitting does come with practice. Dawn speaks to a corollary: possessing a repertoire of techniques which are “right” for a given purpose rather than “the only” method known.

Trial and error (what knitter has never raveled) may be the warp and woof of a knitter, but reading about knitting, often with needles in hand, exposes knitters to new or different – and sometimes better – ways to accomplish, in distinctively different ways, most operations – whether in a more graceful manner, or using fewer steps, or for a visibly improved knitted fabric.

Taking classes is another way to learn techniques, build skills and become adept in selecting the right technique for use at any given moment. Classes provide understanding of not just a technique's architecture but how a given technique enhances the finished work. An example is the difference between SKP and SSK: both are single stitch decreases but mirror each other.

This explains why so many distinct classes are offered by The Knit With and for example, as many as 12 different classes in sock making; each sock class approaches socks in a different manner, using different techniques for garments which look and wear alike but feel different.

The schedule for the shops' Autumn Class Series can be found after page 3. Improve your knitting ability, satisfy your yearn to learn, and become a better you; choose the class which is right for you.

Dawn and Jim

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Chestnut Hill Local Covers Yarn Recall

The recall of six yarns improperly labeled with an overstated cashmere content, as determined by scientific testing, is being reported by the press.

In late May, *The Chestnut Hill Local* published an in-depth article about the cashmere debacle based upon its investigations which began in March. **Linda Cherkin**, a Chestnut Hill resident and shop patron, suggested the story to the newspaper. *The Local's* article is available on-line by clicking on <http://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/issues/2007.05.31/news3.html>. In August, a contributor to *Simply Knitting*, a British magazine, inquired about the recall for further investigation by the editors.

Designers' Spotlight:

Dawn Brocco Knitwear Design:

Dawn Brocco designs, knits, authors and publishes knitting patterns from her Hudson Valley home in Saugerties, NY. Her path to knitting was circuitous: taught to crochet as a child, she explored that craft before becoming a self-taught hand-spinner, weaver, quilter and rug hooker. Reading three chapters of Elizabeth Zimmerman's Knitting Workshop motivated the purchase of needles and a continuing engagement with intarsia, cabling, Fair Isle and more.

When needle-less, Dawn engages other passions: organic gardening, flowers, cooking, and decorating. Recently, she took time from her daily duties (which do not allow as much knitting as many may think or she would like) to discuss her designwork. Highlights of that discussion:



Dawn Brocco: Invest in your knitting as you'll be investing in yourself.

What is your most reliable source of inspiration?

Inspiration comes from anywhere, everywhere. I don't work to be inspired. Ideas tell me they want life and I just try to flesh them out. Or, like my latest baby blanket design series, I'll see something that makes me think " what if... ." I love gardening, so the idea of a huge flower as a blanket didn't need to travel far to be a design concept, followed by a strawberry, a watermelon and, well, more designs are coming.

Yarn colors and textures can speak to me, as they often do. A design I'm working now exists because some blue wool met up with some natural white mohair and they said, " We want to play together " – and because they wouldn't be quiet about it!

A practical need can inspire; a motif can do it – a wallpaper led to a design for socks. Or, it can be the desire for a certain type of garment in a certain color in my wardrobe.

Music and smells are too intangible as influences and neither translate to knit designs for me. I am passionate about wool. The smell of shorn fleece or a yarn with lanolin remaining in it is a natural high for me. I love textiles – they make a home. When a home includes handmade textiles, then that home exudes the love of home.

Autumn Classes Begin September 16

The Autumn series of classes and workshops, offered by The Knit With, begins the week of September 16. The schedule of the Autumn series, offering a variety of classes and workshops for just about every skill level, is inserted in this newsletter, after Page 3.

A special workshop, preliminary to the Autumn series, is offered Sunday, September 9 for a **knitted yarmulka**. Tuition for the yarmulka *Make & Take Workshop* includes the pattern and a pre-packaged quantity of yarn sufficient to make one yarmulka. Attendance in each class is limited, with some classes requiring advance knowledge. The yarmulka workshop requires advance preparation. A registration form is available at www.theknitwith.com/knittersacademy.htm.

Indulging A Kaleidoscopic Passion

How does living where you live influence your designs?

To be creative, nature's peace and quiet is imperative; I need to hear myself think. Living in an antique house brings an admiration for and a connection with good solid style, craftsmanship and history. These threads run through my life, my work.

Is there a favorite knitting form – one you use, or wear, most?

Favorite forms are wool sweaters and thick wool socks. I wear both, every day, Fall to Spring. I do sweaters more than socks – more room for styling options and more area to design within.

Do your designs have a "mission"?

In the great scheme of things, I am just doing what I was meant to do, no mission attached. I design from ideas I like, or to create things that will simply be attractive, and keep the wearer warm. Naturally, I hope my designs will interest knitters enough to want to knit them. But if all that my pattern provides another knitter is good instruction for creating a garment that will be worn and enjoyed for years to come, that is enough for me.

What makes your patterns knittable?

Each is something you could want to wear for the next 5, 10, 15 years. They are not trendy. Buy a trend or a fad, but knit a garment to wear for a lifetime.

Each design is a little different as I am not wed to any single design ' voice '. Beginners and the very accomplished can find lots to knit. Same for an aran knitter and a stranded colorwork knitter, or somebody seeking a new technique to learn, or who appreciates simple construction.

If any thread connects my work, joining the individual differences of individual designs, it's the love of exploring the translation of ideas into fabrics – which is like viewing a kaleidoscope: ever changing, challenging and ever awe-inspiring.

If you had one thing to say to knitters, what would that be?

As with all patterns, read through the pattern first! Become familiar with the abbreviations and techniques used. And, invest in good technique books – knitting isn't just about the yarn.

Though knitting is just knit and purl (and YO, which is neither, and is often left out), there are many skills required to turn stitches into a fabulous, well-knit garment. So, invest in your chosen craft with books and classes; you'll be investing in yourself.



FIBRE FACTS

SHAHTOOSH

What Is Shahtoosh

Shahtoosh, also written *Shatush* and *Sootash*, is the down of the Chiru or Tibetan Antelope; in Persian, Shahtoosh means “Pleasure of Kings” and in Tibet “King of Wools”. More commonly, shahtoosh refers to a shawl, exclusively woven in Jammu and Kashmir (India) of Chiru fibre. Shahtoosh shawls have always been very few in number and extremely precious – in part because only very skilled artisans can spin and weave the scarce and delicate fibre; these shawls, the very apogee of luxury, originated the standard of fine shawls being capable of being drawn through a wedding ring.

The Chiru produce a very fine, downy undercoat of fibre, measuring between 9 and 11 microns in diameter, which is both very light and very warm, allowing the antelope to survive the harsh conditions of its habitat. Traditionally, the fibre was harvested by nomadic tribes who subsisted on the Chiru using the hide, meat, bones, horns and fur pelts provided by the antelope and who would gather the down naturally shed annually when the Chiru annually horde on the Tibetan Plateau. Having no immediate use for the soft down – its incredible fineness virtually impossible for nomads to handle – the Chiru down would be traded in the Kashmir Valley, along with any surplus pelts, bones, horn, with the non-migratory people there. The settled weavers of Kashmir, experienced in handling the finest hand-combed cashmere, would first spin and then weave the fibre into shawls of the most exquisite quality. Today, Chiru poachers cling to the claim they continue the tradition of gathering molted fibre, which is now accepted as a fiction.

Shahtoosh and cashmere were both taken worldwide by the British. The greater world’s knowledge of these noble fibres led to increased demand; in the past 40 years, the Chiru antelope became hunted year-round specifically for its down until, now, it is listed as an endangered species and all commercial trade in shahtoosh is prohibited by international convention; this prohibition has, unfortunately, also led to the demise of the Kashmir weaving industry – the only fibre artisans in the world experienced in handling this fine fibre.

Zoologically and Geographically Where Do Chiru Live

The Chiru, *Pantholops hodgsonii*, are migratory antelope in one of Earth’s harshest environments: the semi-arid and desert, high altitude Central Asian Plateau, stretching from Mongolia to Tibet. Genetically, Chiru are more closely related to musk ox, goats and sheep than other antelopes.

Production

Importation, ownership and sale of shahtoosh fibre and finished products is illegal in the United States and prohibited in countries which are signatories to the CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES. Illegal hunting of the Chiru remains a serious problem in Tibet.

the knit with

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Autumn, 2007 Class Schedule

Classes begin the week of September 16, 2007

Satisfy Your Yearn to Learn – Register Early, Register With a Friend

Beginning Knitting: A Crash Course

Short on time but want to give “this knitting thing” a try? Then try **Beginning Knitting: A Crash Course**. Learn the essential basics: cast on, knit, purl, join yarns, make four basic pattern stitches and bind off. With this workshop, you’ll be able to hold your own with your needles!

Pre-requisites:	A desire to knit.	Instructor:	Dawn Casale
Duration:	Six sessions of one hour.	Tuition:	\$ 95.00
Sessions:	Sun at 1 PM; Wed at 5 PM, Thurs 2 PM; weekly beginning 9 / 16.	Registration Limits:	Six participants.

Kids Knit Too

Knitting is a timeless handcraft that isn’t reserved just for adults! Knitters who learn the craft as children possess a handcraft to be enjoyed for a lifetime. Knitting isn’t just for girls either... many boys take to the needles as well. This class teaches the “basics” of knitting : how to cast on, knit, join new yarn, and to bind off your first knitted item!

Pre-requisites:	A desire to knit between 8 and 14 years old.	Instructor:	Dawn Casale
Duration:	Three sessions of one hour.	Tuition:	\$ 60.00
Sessions:	Suns at 5 PM; meets weekly beginning 9 / 16.	Registration Limits:	Four participants.

Knitting Skills Brush-Up Workshop

Buff up the shine on your knitting skills with this brush-up workshop. Regain facility with cast-on, knit, purl, increases, decreases, basic knitting stitches as well as some of the specialized techniques you used to do.

Pre-requisites:	Previous familiarity with knitting	Instructor:	Various
Duration:	Three sessions of two hours.	Tuition:	\$ 125.00
Sessions:	Tues at 11 AM, meets weekly beginning 9/18.	Registration Limits:	Eight participants.

Super Shrug

Knowing the basics just doesn’t satisfy the beginning knitter! Ideal for the beginning knitter who wants to expand past scarf projects, but is not yet ready to take on **Introduction to Accomplished Knitting**, this class helps you hone basic skills, to increase and two ways to decrease. Experience the wide world of color, practice how to’s to give your garment a fit tailored for you using a pattern that gives you garment the extra touch of you! Ideal next class for graduates of **Beginning Knitting: A Crash Course**.

Pre-requisites:	Basic knitting ability (Crash Course or equivalent knowledge).	Instructor:	Dawn Casale
Duration:	Four sessions, each two hours.	Tuition:	\$ 145.00
Sessions:	Tues at 2pm, Thurs at 5:30, meets weekly beginning 9/18.	Registration Limits:	Six participants

Introduction to Accomplished Knitting (Part One)

Going way beyond knit and purl, this class introduces you to all the skills of an accomplished knitter: increases, decreases, yarn-overs, following pattern stitches, set-in pockets, reading both printed and knitted knitting while making three pieces of fabric to form a classic English waistcoat.

Pre-requisites:	Basic knitting ability (Crash Course or equivalent knowledge).	Instructor:	Various
Duration:	Six weekly sessions of two hours.	Tuition:	\$ 175.00
Sessions:	Sun 11 AM, 2 PM, Thurs 8 PM beginning 9 / 16	Registration Limits:	Eight participants each session.

S. O. S. (Save Our Stitching)

Open the closets, bring out the bags! Want to get over the hump on a half-completed project? Bring one to this class and get the help needed to finish the project.

Pre-requisites:	Accomplished knitting ability.	Instructor:	Jim Casale
Duration:	Four sessions of two hours.	Tuition:	\$ 125.00
Sessions:	Tues 8 PM, beginning 9 / 18	Registration Limits:	Ten participants.

(Continued Other Side)

Top-Down Sweater

Make a sweater from the top-down – without the need for assembly and finishing. The raglan sleeve pullover for this class will introduce you to knitting in the round (say good-bye, purl!) and practice the Make-1 increase. Top down knitting builds in the bonus of allowing the garment can be tried on and fitted as you go.

Pre-requisites: Accomplished knitting ability.
Duration: Six sessions, each two hours.
Sessions: Tues 5:30 PM, beginning 9 /19

Instructor: Jim Casale
Tuition: \$ 145.00
Registration Limits: Ten participants.

The Dress Sock

Become familiar knitting what many consider the ultimate sock form: the classic, basic, dress sock with a ribbed leg to prevent drooping, Dutch turned heel for added strength and wearability and a Kitchenered toe to avoid blisters. After mastering the techniques, experiment with different stitches for the leg tube.

Pre-requisites: An accomplished knitting ability.
Duration: Three sessions of two hours.
Sessions: Wed at 8 PM; meets weekly beginning 9 /19.

Instructor: Jim Casale
Tuition: \$ 115.00
Registration Limits: Six participants.

Sideways Socks (New Directions in Sock Knitting)

How many techniques does a knitted sock take ? Knitted sideways, socks can be more interesting allowing for practice of otherwise seldom-used techniques including provisional cast-on, three needle bind-off and picking up stitches – in addition to a Dutch heel and the pulled toe.

Pre-requisites: An accomplished knitting ability.
Duration: Three sessions of two hours.
Sessions: Wed at 8 PM; meets weekly beginning 10 /10.

Instructor: Jim Casale
Tuition: \$ 115.00
Registration Limits: Six participants.

Toe-Up Socks From the Figure 8 (New Directions in Sock Knitting)

Using a Figure 8 cast-on, explore a different way of knitting socks from the toe up and a turned heel. Even great-grandmother would give these socks a try ! The Toe-up sock feels different from its cuff down counterpart; the turned heel is worked by creating the heel gussets before the heel flap.

Pre-requisites: Accomplished knitting ability.
Duration: Three sessions of two hours.
Sessions: Wed at 8 PM; meets weekly beginning 10 /31.

Instructor: Jim Casale
Tuition: \$ 115.00
Registration Limits: Six participants.

Versatile Knitting

While knitting a hooded Onesie in garter stitch for a toddler, be versatile in your knitting: switch from straights to double points and circulars and make a Onesie with booties, mitts and a hood without any assembly! Master short rows and seemingly seamless garment construction. Learn techniques to knit a garment without the need for assembly or finishing.

Pre-requisites: Accomplished knitting ability.
Duration: Three sessions of two hours.
Sessions: Wed at 5:30 PM; meets weekly beginning 10 /31.

Instructor: Jim Casale
Tuition: \$ 195.00
Registration Limits: Ten participants.

David's Star Yarmulka

This *Make & Take Workshop* explores the alchemy of creating a circle from lines of straight needle knitting: a yarmulka which stays in place without pins. Practices seldomly used yarnovers, decreases and invisible increases. Tuition includes pattern and yarn. Workshop requires advance preparation.

Pre-requisites: Advanced knitting ability (right hand).
Duration: One session of three hours.
Sessions: Sun 9 / 09 at Noon.

Instructor: Jim Casale
Tuition: \$ 150.00
Registration Limits: Six participants

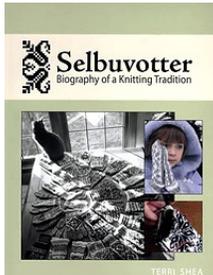
We'll Keep You in Stitches !

Newly Released Tradebooks Reviewed

The Art of Shetland Lace, by Sarah Don, published 2007 by Lacis Publications, ISBN: 978-1-891656-80-4, softbound at \$ 29.95. A new edition of Sarah Don's classic, last printed more than 10 years ago from the original published more than 15 years before that, this is not so much a new edition as a faithful new printing of the original. An exceptional introduction to lace knitting generally and Shetland Lace specifically, this book began the heightened fascination with lace knitting which knitters enjoy today; it is a title which every lace knitter should know and its contents will continue as a reference point for many generations of lace knitters to come.

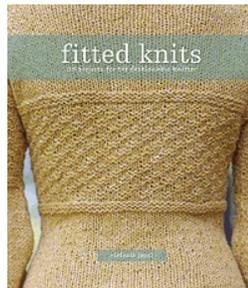


Selbuvotter, Biography of a Knitting Tradition, by Terri Shea, published 2007 by Spinningwheel, ISBN: 978-0-9793126-0-1, softbound at \$ 24.95. Exploring the origins and pattern variations of Norwegian mittens from the knitters of Selbu, this self-published book began as the author's practicum in a museum studies program – preceded by cataloguing the mittens in the textile section of Seattle's Nordic Heritage Museum. The author's academic orientation does not inhibit her admiration for the knitting techniques and motifs which make these mittens so appealing



to knitters and wearers; thankfully her mission of documenting the techniques and motifs popularized by the Selbu knitters saves this commercialized "tradition" for generations to come. The only fault is the author's uncritical homage to the academic literalism of some knitting publications – literalism which defies common sense and a historical record dismissed but not explored as unprovable. As much an interesting documentation of a form of cultural knitting as a motif dictionary and technique primer, the book is worth reading with much of the knitting worth exploring.

Fitted Knits, 25 Designs for the Fashionable Knitter, by Stefanie Japel, published 2007 by North Light Books, ISBN: 1-58180-872-0, softbound at \$ 22.99. Herald the demise of the ubiquitous boxy, unisex, dropped shoulder sweater, the contents of this title celebrate the tailored garment for everyday wear to reveal, and revel in, the hourglass figure. The author, whose previous knitting related work has been published in *knitty.com*, *Stitch 'n Bitch Nation* and *Big Girl Knits*, among other compendia, presents 24 designs capable of being knitting to a knitter's exact body measurements for a tailored fit. Most garment styles are easily knittable with a more relaxed purpose and use than the term tailored connotes. The Cozy V-Neck Pullover is stunning in its simplicity as is the Airy Wrap-Around Lace Sweater is in its femininity.



Don't Moths Eat Wool?

In a word, no!

The two clothes moths (the case-making moth, *Tineola pellionella*, and the webbing moth, *Tineola bisselliella*) are attracted to woolens but feed on residual food, perspiration and urine stains rather than the wool itself. The fats and sugars are the moth's food, and, unless unscoured, not the wool; adult moths do not feed at all.

Adults of both species are golden colored and of similar size: ½ inch wingspan, about ¼ inch in body length; the casemaking moth is more brownish with faint dark spots. Both types are weak flyers and usually only flutter in the immediate area of an infestation. Unlike other moths, they are not attracted to artificial light and quickly seek

protection from sunlight; they can be easily caught.

Larvae of both species are nearly identical: shiny-white worm-like bodies about ½ inch long with a dark head. Seldom seen, larvae are repelled by all light; they live in dark, protected and relatively undisturbed areas such as under folds. When exposed, larvae fall from clothing if they cannot quickly find protection; regularly exposing woolens to sunlight is effective in destroying moth eggs and larvae.

Good housekeeping and periodic laundering are effective control measures. Woolens once worn should be laundered before being stored for long periods of time. Cleaning kills both eggs and larvae and removes perspiration odors which attract adult females. Low humidity environments are not suitable for larvae development, although freezing, heating and chemical vaporizers are also effective. When packed in tight-fitting containers, the vapors of paradichlorobenzene (PDB) or naphthalene, at sufficient concentrations, kill larvae but do not affect adult moths or prevent them from laying eggs. Camphor, lavender and bay leaves are also known to asphyxiate moth larvae; chests and closets lined with aromatic cedar are effective when periodically lightly sanded to release the cedar vapors.

Glad You Asked
Sporadic answers to queer queries

the knit with

Summer Schedule: Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 to 6

After Labor Day:

Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 to 6 ■ Wednesdays 'til 8 PM ■ Sundays 11 to 5

Events Schedule

Monday, September 3 (Labor Day) – Closed
 Sunday, September 16 – Autumn Classes Begin

In the Loop™

A newsletter published electronically six times yearly to the family of knitters and crocheters of

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Delighting Knitters (And Crocheters Too) Since 1970 !

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