

Double Ewe Yarn Shop

Subject: News from Double Ewe - Issue 10

News from Double Ewe

January 2008

Happy New Year!!

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### January's Yarn of the Month: Opal

Our Opal arrived just last week, so we thought it would be perfect to feature it for this month's Yarn of the Month. Opal is a favorite of many sock knitters, and for good reasons: high quality sock yarn with inspired colorways - a lot of fun to knit! 10% off all month.

### Current Class Schedule (January-February 2008)

I've listed our January - February classes below. For a detailed description, prices and dates, visit our website at: [www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Classes.htm](http://www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Classes.htm), or stop in the class for a schedule. To register: stop in, send an email to [kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com](mailto:kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com), or call 763-780-2465.

- Knitting 101 (Beginning Knitting)
- Fixing Mistakes
- Glittens
- Sweater Workshop
- Finishing Techniques
- Mitered Squares
- Double Knit Headband
- Felted Clogs
- Knitter's Choice
- Mittens
- Log Cabin Squares
- Faux Isle Hat
- Knitting Continental

### Charitable Knitting: Mother Bear Project

We've decided to start a group to support the Mother Bear Project. The Mother Bear Project is dedicated to providing comfort and hope to children, primarily those affected by HIV/AIDS in emerging nations, by giving them a gift of love in the form of hand-knit and crocheted bears.

You do not have to come to the group to participate in this project. I have brochures and patterns available here at the shop. This could be fun!

**When:** The first Thursday each month, from 2:30 - 5:00, starting **February 7th**

**Why:** Join us as we knit bears for Mother Bear Project to bring comfort & hope to children in Africa affected by HIV/AIDS.

**What you will need to bring:** Size 7 needles. I will have some yarn available to use, but if you have yarn you'd like to use or share, you're welcome to bring it as well. Each bear takes a "fist size" ball each of three colors: one "bear colored", one for his pants, and one for his shirt. The yarn needs to be either acrylic or machine washable wool.

**Cost:** Coming to our group is free. However, we need to contribute \$5.00 to The Mother Bear Project for each pattern and to cover shipping the first bear you make to Africa. With each additional bear you contribute, I'll need to collect \$3.00. I will pass this money on to Mother Bear Project, where it goes directly into shipping the bears air-mail through the US Postal Service and taxes and duty on the receiving end in Africa.

For more information plus some cute pictures of kids with their bears, visit: [www.motherbearproject.org](http://www.motherbearproject.org)

## New Stuff

We've gotten several new yarns in the shop since I've last written:

**Opal** - Just arrived last week, and it's this month's yarn of the month. A high quality, self patterning German sock yarn that is fun to knit & a delight to wear! Just one ball is needed for a pair of socks.

**Autunno from Di.Ve'** - Incredibly soft Merino wool combined with beautiful, long color changes. This is one of my new favorites.

**Fixation from Cascade** - Stretchy cotton yarn. Cascade has a lot of free patterns worth checking out: [www.cascadeyarn.com/patterns\\_fixation.asp](http://www.cascadeyarn.com/patterns_fixation.asp)

**Panda Silk** - A blend of bamboo, superwash merino and combed silk in a fingering weight yarn. Really pretty colors - nice for socks & scarves.

## Ravelry Stuff

If you're on Ravelry, the shop has its own group now: The Double Ewe Knitting Group. And if you're looking for me, my Ravelry ID is cpcats. And if you're not sure what I'm talking about, check out [www.ravelry.com](http://www.ravelry.com). Hard to describe, but fun.

## Guest Columnist\*\*

This month's columnist is Ann Palecek. In February, Ann is teaching a class about how to make the baby blanket she writes about in this essay (the Log Cabin Squares class). She'll have the class make a prototype dishcloth with a log cabin center and the edging around it. You'll learn how to figure it out yourself from the log cabin recipe and how to adapt the edging to your own blanket.

### The Baby Blanket

There are times when knitting can be a solace, a lifeline, the very thing that keeps you going when life is not going the way you want. The baby blanket was that knitting for me. Many of you might remember it on display at the shop. I lent it to Kelly for display for a while and she put it in the little room on top of the yarn by the door. It is log cabin blocks with a yellow lacy border around it.

My daughter announced that she was going to have a baby and I wanted to knit a baby blanket for the new life coming. So I started the Mason Dixon log cabin recipe from their book *Mason Dixon Knitting*. At the same time my Dad was declining in health. He had a major surgery and we thought that he would get better. He didn't. Many days were spent in the emergency room, then in the hospital and visiting in the rehab nursing home. Perfect knitting project! Garter stitch, mindless knitting, knit 9 ridges, turn, pick up on the next side, knit 9 ridges, repeat as needed. Then my husband's employer announced yet another layoff. He decided to be proactive and take the voluntary buy-out in order to get more severance and so Dad was slowly dying and husband was facing unemployment.

Knit, knit, knit.

We found a nursing facility for Dad, moved him in. They called because he was not doing well (I probably was at Friday knitting when they called, knitting) and we decided to send him by ambulance to the emergency room again. 10 days in the ICU.

Knit, knit, knit.

We took turns staying all night in the hospital. Dad died of MRSA, the staph infection that is so resistant to antibiotics, after a 10 day struggle.

Knit, knit, knit.

Funeral arrangements, coping with a grieving mother, oh, my just writing this brings tears.

Knit, knit, knit.

After the funeral, I couldn't face the blanket. All I could think of was my father and his long struggle and eventual death whenever I thought about picking it up. It sat for months. I brought it on vacation but didn't touch it. But babies come on a schedule. So I couldn't let it languish as a forever UFO. I picked it up again and there wasn't much left of the body of it - the log cabin blocks. I finished the blocks - four of them, and sewed them together. I had been dreading sewing them together but it wasn't that hard to do. Then the decision about what to put on the edge. I looked at various edge patterns and eventually found a baby blanket pattern on the knit list with an edging that had no picture so I made a washcloth prototype to test the pattern. Husband still unemployed.

Knit, knit, knit.

I liked how the washcloth turned out so I adapted the pattern for the stitch count of the baby blanket and picked up hundreds of stitches around it and knit, knit, knit. Husband got a job offer, then another one, decisions had to be made!

Knit, knit, knit.

I finished the blanket. My husband has a new job that he loves. At this writing the baby hasn't been born yet\* but we're within days of becoming grandparents. A new life starting as we've lost a loved one. Life is like that.

Knit, knit, knit.

*\*Ann's granddaughter was born on December 31st!! You can read about Abigail on Ann's new blog:  
<http://anncrafts.blogspot.com/>*

*\*\*Each month, I feature a guest columnist. Maybe you like to write, but don't have the time to commit to a knitting blog. I'd love to see personal essays, technique articles, and book reviews. Tell us about your visit to a woolen mill or to an alpaca farm. Share your personal knitting trials and successes. If you're interested in contributing, just email me at [kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com](mailto:kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com). Don't be shy!*

Again, thanks to all of you for support!

Kelly Judson

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**Hours:**

Tues 10:00 - 9:00  
Weds - Thurs 10:00 - 8:00  
Fri - Sat 10:00 - 5:00  
Sun - Mon Closed

*If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please send an email to [kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com](mailto:kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com) and I'll remove you immediately.*