

Double Ewe Yarn Shop

Subject: News from Double Ewe Feb 2008 - Issue 11

I can't believe January is over; it makes me a little sad. Fall and winter are my favorite seasons, and they just go too fast for me. Some of you might think I'm crazy, but I'm loving this good, solid winter we've been having. Doesn't it make you feel tough? And it's a great excuse to hunker down with some wool.

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### String Bag Sale

You know how Menards has bag sales now and then, when everything you can fit into a bag is X% off? Well, we're having a bag sale! But it's with a twist. Here's how its going to work: During the month of February, knit a string bag, then sometime during the week of March 4th - 8th, bring in your bag, fill it with yarn, and get 20% off. It's that simple! Ok, maybe it's not quite *that* simple, there are a few rules, but really, it's pretty simple:

1. The bag needs to be knit or crocheted from yarn purchased from Double Ewe. There are a few good choices: Cotton Fleece, 2nd Time Cotton & Summer Linen come to mind.
2. The pattern you use is up to you. I do have a cool pattern for sale (the Stow Away Shopping Bag from Oat Couture), but there are numerous free patterns online as well.
3. Double Ewe has the final say on any bag you are using. (The measurements need to be similar to the Stow Away Shopping Bag - you can see it here in the shop to get an idea.)
4. Discount applies to yarn & patterns only; handspun, books, needles, baskets/totes & notions are excluded.
5. No bag-sharing allowed...it must be *your own* bag; if you need help with the pattern, I'd be happy to help you figure it out!
6. One "bag-o-discount" during the week per customer, please.
7. The yarn purchased with the discount does not count towards earning your 25% off coupon.

And the cool thing is, you'll end up with a handy string bag! Great for shopping, the farmer's market or the beach. (Eh? Hard to imagine in February...)

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Yarn of the Month: Autunno

This is one of my new favorites, and once you touch it, you'll understand why: incredibly soft 100% Merino wool combined with beautiful, long color changes. Whether you're a knitter or crocheter, you'll love the way Autunno slides across the needles & hooks as it creates wonderful patterns of color. Regularly \$6.95/50 gram ball, 10% off for the month of February making it an even more affordable luxury.

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### February & March Classes

Double Ewe is a "equal opportunity" shop, where all fiber arts can live together in harmony (grin). In this spirit, we're offering a couple of classes that give you the opportunity to branch out in your fiber habit: Beginning crochet & tatting. (I almost want to break out in the "I have a dream" speech, but I'm afraid that would probably be disrespectful ;-)

just a listing of the classes available. For detailed descriptions, prices and dates, visit our website at: [www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Classes.htm](http://www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Classes.htm) and scroll down a bit for the details, or stop in the class for a schedule. To register you can stop in the shop, send an email to [kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com](mailto:kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com), or call 763-780-2465.

- Knitting 101
- Knitter's Choice
- Mittens
- Fixing Mistakes
- Log Cabin Squares
- Faux Isle Hat
- Finishing Techniques
- Knitting Continental
- Double Knit Headband
- Tatting
- Handknit Socks
- Beginning Crochet
- Cables

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Events, Knit Alongs, & other stuff to do with Ewe

Great American Afghan Knit Along (a.k.a. GAA KAL)

Meets every other Saturday morning from 9:00 - 10:30.

Upcoming meetings: February 9th & 23rd, March 8th & 22nd

The Scoop: This is going to be fun! In making this afghan, we'll explore a broad range of knitting techniques one square at a time: Entrelac, cables, lace; the list goes on. We'll be doing two blocks a month, but they're interchangeable, so feel free to repeat or omit blocks. Knit all 25 blocks for a full-size or make as many as you like to make a smaller throw. Each square is unique and uses different techniques. Each block was designed by a well-known knitting designer, such as Meg Swanson, Melissa Leapman, Sally Melville, Lily Chin, etc.

Cost: Free

What you'll need: The Great American Afghan (\$12.95)

Suggested yarns: Plymouth Encore, Cleckheaton Country 8-Ply (Because the afghan is knit a square at a time using different colors, you can feel free to purchase the yarn as you go rather than all at once.)

Mother Bear Project

This month we officially start up our Mother Bear Project group. 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. Please remember, you do not have to come to the group to participate in this project. I have brochures and patterns available here at the shop. We've already started accumulating bears, and they're CUTE! This could be a lot of 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

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## Upcoming Fibery Events in the Twin Cities

## **Knit Out & Crochet 2008**

February 16th - 17th

Location: Mall of America

Sponsored by The Craft Yarn Council of America, the second annual Presidents' Day Weekend Knit-Out at the Mall of America features two days of free beginner knitting & crochet lessons, displays, and demonstrations. See the CYCA Web site, [www.craftyarnCouncil.com/knitoutbrochure.html](http://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/knitoutbrochure.html), for more information.

## **Yarnover 2008**

April 12th, 2008

Location: Hopkins High School

Yarnover is an annual, one-day event put on by the Minnesota Knitter's Guild, and it's held at Hopkins High School. Yarnover consists of a big "market" (a yarnaholics dream come true!), and classes. Great classes taught by well-known teachers. There are a lot of classes available - some are all-day classes, and there are also half-day classes. All day registration is \$115, half-day is \$75. Both whole & half days include the class, a keynote address, lunch & a gift bag. There are also drawings for a lot of great prizes. If you want to just shop, there's no charge. So, that's it in a nutshell. If you can swing it, I highly recommend attending. It's a ton of fun, and it's really fun to see so many knitters all in one place! And the classes I've attended have been really good. I'm really looking forward to it! For more information, please go to [www.knitters.org](http://www.knitters.org).

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Guest Columnist**

Becoming a Fearless Knitter

by Ashley Scott

Now that the holiday season is over and the furious gift knitting has ceased for the time being, I've begun to focus more on knitting for myself. As I thought about what projects to begin, it seemed like some of them were too simple, and I realized I was not challenging myself. So, I pondered this for a while, wondering why? It all comes down to one thing. Fear. It's just knitting, so why the fear? Maybe the project won't turn out quite right, or I'm not sure of how to read the pattern correctly. Maybe it is a stitch or technique I'm unfamiliar with. Perhaps it might take to long, after all, we're after results, we want the finished project, and we want it yesterday! (At least in my case...)

About the time I began thinking about confronting this problem, I noticed an article from Knitting Daily entitled, "Becoming a Fearless Knitter." I admit, I only read the title and a short quote, and skipped the article. The quote was from Stephanie Pearl-McPhee (the Yarn Harlot) from her book, "At Knit's End."
"Be afraid of skydiving. Be afraid of wild boar. Be fearless with knitting."

I also found this quote from Stephanie, which amused me further...

"no one has ever been killed or maimed by being adventurous with knitting, no matter how pointy the needles."

Stephanie, thank you for providing the clarity I so desperately needed. I am plagued by perfectionism, which can be quite a stumbling block to becoming a fearless knitter. Having to rip out a project for the fifth time definitely discourages me and leads to thoughts that aren't conducive to more challenging knitting.

I decided my skills needed some upgrading so I took Kelly's class on cabling and colorwork. I was thrilled at how simple cables were to knit, and I survived colorwork and loved it, no voodoo, or tears, so I'm encouraged that when I decide to start a colorwork project, it's going to be ok. It is also okay to take your time. There is no deadline, only the one's we enforce on ourselves. It's just yarn and sticks! Knitting is a hobby after all, not rocket science. Always keep moving forward, gaining new skills, and be happy with how your knitting progresses, at your own pace.

I watch many talented knitters at Double Ewe working on their projects, fearlessly. I realize we all have our own individual learning curves, and are at different places with our skills. Sometimes we need to observe our fellow knitters and encourage ourselves to take the next step, and move beyond scarves, or mittens. Try socks or a sweater. So what if it takes two years to complete?

I am going to try and make 2008 a fun and fearless year of knitting. I'm not there yet, but with the help and support of

my fellow knitters I just might.

I will end with this quote that also inspires me to have fun with knitting, and not be afraid.

"One of the greatest discoveries a man makes, one of his greatest surprises, is to find he can do what he was afraid he couldn't do." -Henry Ford

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*\*\*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, I want to thank y'all for your support!

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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.*