



# SPRING & SUMMER

# 2019

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

– SENECA



Open Sunday–Saturday 10–6. Closed 4th of July.



For a lifelong knitter (and sometime crocheter, stitcher, seamstress...), the spring and summer months have a flavor all their own. Longer days and brighter skies beckon us—yes, even we sedentary types—outdoors. Out to the porch. Out to the garden. Out to the shore. And maybe this year, out for a walk, knitting in hand.

It's the time of year for crafting

weekends, family visits, and travels near and far. We kicked off our gad-about season at the end of March, sponsoring a 'Knitting with Company' retreat at IslandWood. Seventy-odd (well, not actually 'odd'!) knitters communed with

'Company' founders Catherine Lowe and Julie Hoover and renowned designers Olga Buraya-Kefelian and Gudrun Johnston. The weekend was a splendid reminder of how much we learn when we spend time together.

We're so pleased to introduce you to a collection of five new *Churchmouse Classics* patterns for spring. See pages 6–10 for photos of the designs and page 15 for details about our launch party (come get a free pattern!).

This is the first collection we've done since 2009 without our friend Jared Flood behind the camera. We're so grateful for his friendship, talent, and continued support long past the point that he could comfortably fit our projects into his busy Brooklyn Tweed world. I learned so much from Jared and look forward to future collaborations and visits.

Our new photographer Laura Gehring, while not a knitter (yet!), brought a lovely fashion eye (and two-month-old Arlo!) to the set. With Laura nearby in Seattle, we're excited about the potential for shooting more designs more often. We'd better get knitting!

In April, the knitting community said

a sad farewell to Karen Aho, former longtime owner of the Acorn Street Shop in Seattle. Karen was a dedicated presence in The National Needlework Association (TNNA) and was generous with her wisdom when we first started Churchmouse.

She remained a constant encourager as the years went by. Karen must have been so heartened to know that 'her' Acorn Street had been passed into the capable and loving hands of new owners Mary, Janet, and Judy before she passed away (too soon).

Every day is a gift.

Kit Hutchin

P.S. During this year's LYS Tour (May 15-19), we'll have two new free patterns to share with you. Hope to see you in our shop!



# in the PINK

We're so ready for the fresh days of spring to hurl us pell-mell into summer, aren't you? We find ourselves drawn headlong into a blooming border of pretty



garden shades: barely blush, zingy zinnia, peppery petunia... enhanced with a cosmetic artist's palette of creamy and smudgy hues: rosy cocoa, warm russet, golden spice... When we found *Izipizi*'s new pink glasses frames, even those of

us who don't need readers wanted rosécolored glasses. With

porch-time in mind, we've all been brushing up on simple needlepoint skills for *Elizabeth Bradley's* Victorian cross-stitch kits: we love how her bold modern blooms (16" Dahlia shown above) mix happily with her original traditional botanicals, all equally at home in a summer cottage or midcentury rambler. And our new crop of yarns—with sunny names like *Canapa, Cabrito, Vine, Denim Revive, Lily,* and *Ra-Ra Raffia*—have us shifting our allegiance, however briefly, from our favorite woollies to quick and breezy tops and airy accessories. Cheers!



From top: Lang Canapa, Manos Cabrito, Shibui Vine, Rowan Denim Revive, and Lang Lily.



Our 'Featured Faves' this May all have a gently refreshing quality about them—a yarn, tea, and notion perfect for spring! Enjoy 10% off softly springy *Rowan Softyak DK*, the delicately flavored *Churchmouse Spring* tea, and the eco-and-fiber-friendly *Laundress Wool & Cashmere Shampoo.* 

**Soft cotton, soft yak:** Pair light, cool cotton with clouds of yak underdown, add a touch of nylon, and you'll have *Rowan's Softyak DK*! This blend's softness is brilliant, but it's the chainette construction that makes *Softyak DK* particularly clever.



It lends an amazing bounce and in-hand comfort that's not usually found in cotton yarns. Plus, the cotton and yak fibers absorb dye differently, giving us pretty, heathered shading in each skein.

**Eco-friendly wool wash:** This May, we'd like to celebrate a company that's as serious about caring for your hand-knits as we are. We adore The Laundress eco-friendly approach to laundry—and the *Wool & Cashmere Shampoo* is the star of their Natural Fabric Care line. This toxin-free formula safely washes and preserves cashmere, wool, mohair, blends, and more, leaving a mild cedar scent. Give your winter woolens a gentle bath before tucking them away for the season!

fresh brew: The incomparable Portland-based tea maker, Steve Smith, created *Churchmouse Spring* for us not long after we met him in 2009. Nearly 10 years later, this delicately flavored tea made with Chinese full-leaf green tea, hyssop, lemon myrtle, elderflowers, and jasmine green—still makes us think of fresh starts, new endeavors, and old friends.

# KEEP UP WITH 'FEATURED FAVES'

Each month, we peruse our shelves, reach into our tea cupboard, and pick three faves to feature at 10% off. Keep abreast of the changing Faves on our website—or sign up for our email list (you can join at the bottom of any web page).

# EASY STRIPED TRIANGLE SCARF

This pattern features a simple one-row repeat, but stripes (á la our 'Magic Three-Yarn Scarf') add some playful interest. Long tapered ends offer many styling options—a perfect spring accessory.

**Finished Size:** Approx. 72"/183cm wingspan x 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"/42cm deep at center.

**Yarn:** 3 skeins Rowan *Softyak DK* (148 yds/138m each) in three colors; or approx. 148 yds/138m each in Colors A, B and C of an equivalent DK-weight yarn.



Notions: US 10½ (6.5mm) 24"/60cm circular

needle, or size to obtain gauge. *Note: You may prefer to use a longer circular needle as your work progresses.* Blunt darning needle and T-pins.

Gauge: Approx. 13 sts = 4"/10cm in garter stitch, after blocking.

**Glossary: Inc**('d) = increase(d); **K** = knit; **KFB** = knit into the front then back of same stitch; **St**(**s**) = stitch(es); **YO** = yarn over (bring yarn forward between needles, then back over right needle).

Cast on: With Color A, using long-tail cast-on method, cast on 3 sts.

Three color sequence: <u>Set-up row</u>: With Color A, knit to end.

Row 1: With Color A, KFB, YO, knit to end. Don't cut yarn. [2 sts inc'd]

Row 2: With Color B, KFB, YO, knit to end. Don't cut yarn. [2 sts inc'd]

Row 3: With Color C, KFB, YO, knit to end. Don't cut yarn. [2 sts inc'd]

Yarns are now in place to repeat Rows 1–3. Simply drop color just worked and pick up the next color that's magically waiting in place. Bring new color up behind previous one. *Note: To keep your edges from pulling in, don't tug on first stitch in new color.* 

Repeat Rows 1–3 until piece measures 161/2"/42cm, or desired length, from cast-on edge. Be sure to leave approx. 10 yds/m for binding off.

**Bind off:** Bind off knitwise, matching tension of work so bound-off edge doesn't pull in or flare out. *Note: If you need to, use a needle one size larger than gauge needle.* 

**Finishing:** Weave in ends. Soak for 20 minutes in tepid water with no-rinse wool soap. Gently squeeze out as much water as possible. Roll up in towel and gently squeeze out more moisture; or place in zippered pillow case or lingerie bag and run through spin-only cycle in washing machine. Lay flat to desired dimensions and pin at corners. Let dry thoroughly.



This spring, we're so pleased to share five new 'Churchmouse Classics' patterns with you. Lacy and sweet, simple and sleek, these three garments and two accessories are seasonless wardrobe staples. Join us in celebrating the newest collection from our design team with a Pattern Launch Party on May 4th (see page 15 for all the details).





# WRAP & TIE APRON VEST

This garment is so wonderfully versatile—its entire air changes by simply adjusting the ties. With the crocheted cords high at your sides, the 'Wrap & Tie Apron Vest' (above) has the charm of a worker's apron or kitchen coverall. Lower the ties to your waist for modern asymmetry. Worn open, it has an elegant, cascading drape. And with a stitch pattern that's attractive on both sides, we're touting its reversibility!

# BOXY LACE TEE

Presenting our very first lace garment (shown on previous page)! We juxtaposed a simple, square shape with a pretty, feminine motif—there's something so modern about lace writ a little larger. This lacy top is easy to pop on and feels both comfy and really pretty. We knit the short, cute 'Boxy Lace Tee' in Rowan Alpaca Classic. Lightweight, airy, and a little bit fuzzy, it's adorable all year 'round! Our scaled up version, tunic-length and comfortably oversized, was knit in Hemp for Knitting allhemp6 (not shown)—a weighty, washable, warmweather favorite.

Lorenette says, "I really like the minimalist lines of the Wrap & Tie Apron Vest. In Manos Milo, it would make a lovely layering piece for all my spring and summer linens."

Carolyn is still deciding which length of the Boxy Lace Tee she likes. She'll make it in Rowan Cotton Cashmere to keep it nice and light.

Freshy says, "I really like the Alpaca Classic version, but I'm curious to see if it will work in Erika Knight Studio Linen."



# PRETTY PERFECT SQUARE

Mimicking the shape and scale of a classic silk scarf, the '*Pretty Perfect Square*' is just right for the knitter who loves stockinette stitch. Striped or colorblocked, fold and refold for near infinite styling possibilities. Our pattern is a 'recipe' for creating any size—we've included details for three sizes and color sequences. With a little swatching, and a little math, you really can't go wrong!

We knit our 'Pretty Perfect Squares' in a couple of our favorite lace-weight mohair-and-silk blends. Fine and fuzzy, Rowan Kidsilk Haze (above) creates a great, fluid fabric—especially after a good blocking and a hard press. Even finer, Shibui Silk Cloud is extra sheer (not shown). Gretchen was instantly drawn to the Pretty Perfect Square. She and Carol both think it will be a great place to play with gorgeous, handdyed Alchemy Haiku—a sophisticated, variegated blend of mohair and silk.

Kit's hoping to knit a Pretty Perfect Square in a non-mohair yarn, also variegated, "so I never have to think at all!" She thinks silky Manos Marina might do the trick.

# SIDEWAYS TEE

With this piece, we took a familiar style and gave it a modern pivot. This deceptively simple top is cleverly knit from the center out to each side, rather than from top to bottom or vice versa. A tapered shape—roomier at the bust, a little narrower at the hips—gives the tee a neat, easy wearability!

The 'Sideways Tee' can be a sleek, drapey top or a warm and cozy layer—depending on your choice of yarn. For a cool, sporty tee, we chose 100% linen Shibui Reed (below) and held it double in two different, tonal colors for a gentle marl. We also knit one in Rowan Felted Tweed (not shown)—for a woollier, more structured popover.

Over skinny jeans or tailored pants, worn on its own or over long-sleeved shirts, the '*Sideways Tee*' is a new go-to in our wardrobes!



Leila says, "I'm really about excited the Sideways Tee. I feel it's a piece that would fit nicely into my wardrobe and could be worn in so many ways. I'd like to use Shibui Reed, but I think I'd choose two colors with auite a bit of contrast. like Ash and Tar, or Bone and Abyss. I also like the idea of pairing Pollen and Ivory. So many good choices!"

Denise says, "I'm knitting the Sideways Tee in Shibui Twig, in a heathered blue: Shore. It's been fun so far and interesting to knit a garment 'sideways.' I'm looking forward to wearing it this summer!"

Pam says, "I've started the Sideways Tee in two dark strands of Shibui Reed (Abyss and Tar). The slight inward shaping towards the hip and the shaped shoulders give the tee a fullness that doesn't look baggy. I can't wait to finish and will be wearing this one year 'round." Pam will probably have 3 or 4 done by the end of the summer!



## DEMI LUNE SCARF

This piece is a gently curving alternative to the typical triangle scarf. Not quite a half-moon shape, the knitting starts at the long, top edge and gets faster and faster as you go! A pretty eyelet border—the simplest version of a lace edging—adds a little kick to the relaxing rhythm of stockinette stitch.

With such beautiful simplicity, the '*Demi Lune Scarf*' is the perfect canvas to play with degrees of sheerness. An open gauge and a lace-weight mohair, like *Rowan Kidsilk Haze* (above), creates a delicate whisper of a scarf. Pair a fingering-weight with the lace-weight yarn for more drape—we chose *Shibui Reed* and *Silk Cloud* (not shown) for a supple fabric with a gentle halo.

The generous length and long, tapering ends of the '*Demi Lune Scarf*' create endless styling options.

Gregory is going to make a Demi Lune Scarf in Isager Silk Mohair but he can't decide on a color. "That whole palette is so gorgeous!"

Lauren loves the gossamer quality of the lace-weight version. She's thinking of trying mYak Baby Yak Lace, "So light but so warm."



What do we like to sip and savor in spring? Mmm, berries and cream. A toothsome biscuit or two. Or three. And, of course, tea. Whether it's a steaming mug or a tall, iced glass, tea is an all-weather, all-season beverage in our book!

All spring and summer long we keep our pantry well-stocked with tea. Our current loves are any of our *bulk Rooibos teas* (fresh, floral, and fruity), herbal blends from *Smith Teamaker*, and *Ajiri's* mango and lemon black teas—all delicious hot or iced!

Beloved *Shortbread House of Edinburgh* has stirred up five, delectable new flavors: Aromatic Lavender, Salted Caramel,

Clotted Cream, Rich Dark Chocolate, and Hazelnut & White Chocolate. All biscuits available in tall, bright, reusable tins.

Whatever your favorite tea (we have many), we think it tastes just a little better in a creamware mug from *Emma Bridgewater*. This spring, marigolds and dog roses ring around the classic half-pinters.



# CLASSIC CRÈME ANGLAISE

The perfect custard to pour over cakes and berries, or to eat right out of the bowl! Makes 2½ cups.

1¾ cups whole milk ¼ cup heavy cream 1 tsp vanilla extract 6 egg yolks ¼ cup sugar Pinch of salt

Add milk, cream, and vanilla to a medium saucepan and heat over medium heat just 'til warm and steaming (do not boil). Meanwhile, whisk together egg yolks, sugar, and salt until light in color (about 1 minute). Slowly pour warmed milk into yolk mixture while whisking constantly. Tip: Use a damp towel under your bowl to prevent it from slipping while whisking. Pour mixture back into saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly with spatula until mixture thickens slightly, and coats back of spatula without running off, or until mixture reaches 180°F on an instant-read thermometer (about 5-8 minutes). Do not let the custard come to a boil! Strain into a chilled bowl, and refrigerate until cool, then cover surface with plastic wrap and chill until ready to use. Will keep up to 2 days. Sooooo scrummy!

# SPRING 2019 IN THE CLASSROOM

**ALL ABOUT OUR CLASSES:** If you're eager to learn or improve your skills, start by bookmarking the 'LEARN' page on our website, churchmouseyarns.com. There you'll see more details about all the classes currently available, and new offerings that are added between mailers. It's super easy to sign up for a class there. Be sure to check the fine print before ordering and get ready to be a better knitter! *All students (except Circles) will receive a one-time 10% off coupon on the first day of the class.* 

 'DROP IN' CIRCLES: Stuck? Get help with your projects during these sessions. MONDAY MORNINGS 10:00am-12:00pm TUESDAY AFTERNOONS 2:00-4:00pm THURSDAY MORNINGS 10:00am-12:00pm FRIDAY MORNINGS 10:00am-12:00pm SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 2:00-4:00pm

Maximum: 6 students \$16/2 hours; \$8/second hour only. \$64/10 prepaid hours. To ensure a spot, sign up in advance by calling the shop: 206-780-2686, option 4.

OPEN TABLE FREE! Meet old friends and make new ones. TUESDAY & SUNDAY MORNINGS 10:00am-12:00pm THURSDAY AFTERNOONS 4:00-6:00pm It's not a class but a chance to gather with like-minded fiber fans!

**CHARITY CIRCLE** FREE! All levels welcome with Sally Dunbar First Wednesday afternoons 1:00–3:00pm 5/1, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7 At BARN. Third Thursday afternoons 1:00–3:00pm 5/16, 6/20, 7/18, 8/15 At the shop! We can find a good home for any project you'd like to tackle! Won't you join us?

# KIDS KNITTING: Learn to Knit or Pick a Project with Jennifer Burlingame

Wednesday afternoons 3:30–4:30pm 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29 Wednesday afternoons 4:30–5:30pm 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29 Parents: Please arrive 15 minutes early to purchase supplies for first class. If you've never knit before, come in and learn! Or finish a project and start something new! Miss B's class is popular so sign up early. Ages 7 and up. Maximum: 7 students \$40 (4-session class).

# OOPS! (Or The Anatomy of a Stitch) with Kit Hutchin

Saturday afternoons 1:00-3:00pm 6/1, 6/8

Learn how to see the structure of a good stitch so you'll know what to do when one goes wrong. Covers how to pick up, un-knit, and rip (and a few tricks so you don't need to). Basic knitting skills required. Maximum: 5 students \$45 (2-session workshop)

# LEARN TO KNIT, STEP ONE: One-session immersion with Denise May

Saturday afternoon 1:00-4:00pm 5/25

For those with limited time, we're offering our same *Learn to Knit Fingerless Gloves class* in one three-hour session. *We'll provide:* a coupon for one free two-hour Drop-In Circle on a day of your choice (\$16 value) and a *Churchmouse Learn-to-Knit Kit* (\$48 value). No previous experience required. Maximum: 6 students \$90 (1-session workshop)

# LEARN TO CROCHET: Handwarmers with Becky ffitch

Tuesday evenings 5:00–7:00pm 5/7, 5/14, 5/21

*You'll learn*: All the basics you'll need for a lifetime of crocheting. *You'll make*: Pretty handwarmers where you can practice three basic stitches in a repeating pattern. *We'll provide: Churchmouse Learn-to-Crochet Kit* (\$48 value). Maximum: 6 students. \$90 (3-session workshop)

# INTRODUCTION TO LACE: One-session immersion with Becky ffitch

Saturday afternoon 12:00–3:00pm 5/11

Start your first lace knitting project—it's easier than you think! In one three-hour session you'll learn yarn-over eyelets and decreases, how to read a chart, and how to read your knitting. *We'll provide:* a coupon for one free two-hour Drop-In Circle on a day of your choice (\$16 value) and the *Churchmouse Classics 'English Mesh Lace Scarf'* pattern (\$6 value). Basic knitting skills required. Maximum: 6 students \$40 (1-session workshop)

# LEARN TO KNIT, STEP TWO: Ribbed Beanie with Cornie Talley

Tuesday evenings 5:00-7:00pm 6/4, 6/11, 6/18

If you've learned the basics, you're ready to knit a hat. *You'll learn*: Joining in the round, and working with double-point needles. *You'll make*: A cute ribbed beanie. *We'll provide*: Churchmouse pattern (\$7 value). Maximum: 6 students \$60 (3-session workshop)

# FIRST WEE SWEATER: Easy Peasy Baby Jacket with Jennifer Bailey

Monday evenings 5:00-7:00pm 5/6, 5/13, 5/20

A cute wrap-front baby sweater in garter stitch. *You'll learn:* pattern reading, decreasing, picking up stitches, simple buttonholes, seaming garter stitch, and making twisted cord. Only basic knitting skills required. Maximum: 6 students \$60 (3-session workshop)

**FINISHING FOR THE FINICKY: 6-Hour Workshop** with Susanna Hansson Saturday 10:30am–5:30pm 7/13 (with a one-hour lunch break)

Does your finishing leave your sweaters looking 'homemade'? Susanna says, "Good finishing begins before you cast on your first stitch." In this special 6-hour workshop, you'll learn professional tricks and techniques that will save time, make finishing easier, and ensure a beautiful outcome. Basic knitting skills required; some previous garment experience helpful. Maximum: 16 students \$100 (1-session workshop)

# INFO, UPDATES, & NEW CLASSES ONLINE

Visit our LEARN pages and check our EVENTS CALENDAR on our website.

# island SUMMERS

Bainbridge Island has a long history of working farms and summer houses. Though over time we've become a community of year-'rounders, our homes can still have a casual, holiday house feel in the summer. Windows are open to the sea and forest air, there are fresh-cut flowers in the hall, herbs growing in the kitchen, and everywhere a deep, green contentment.

In May, June, and July, a whole world of weather is contained on our little Island-brisk mornings and cool breezes on the beach give way to afternoon sun and heat in the inland hills and meadows. However the day starts

out, it's bound to go through a few changes. (With apologies to Mark Twain, if you don't like our weather, wait twenty minutes and you might!)

So we take hand-knit layers with us as we head out the door-a shawl to toss over our shoulders, and a beanie to replace a sun hat. In fact, most of our woolens stand by-kept fresh and critter-free by Japanese Hiba wood—for rainy days, chilly spells, and evenings 'round a campfire.

Throughout these mercurial seasons, our



knitting continues unabated. We take small, portable projects with us on camping trips and picnics on the

beach-sometimes even on wooded walks. We pick up our larger projects-the wool sweaters and shawls we want to wear this fall—when we're home, enjoying the warm sun on the back porch or the sound of rain.

From top: Ceramic Hanging Frog Vase from the Floral Society (perfect for blossoms or knitting needles); Hiba Raw Log Slice (deodorizing & insect-repelling); 'Ticking' candle, from Wax & Wool, Etc. (the scent of green florals & spring storms, created just for us).



**NEW! ONLINE EVENT CALENDAR.** Planning a visit to our shop this summer? Our nifty new online Event Calendar is awesome! (We love the 'filter' function.) We'll add to our calendar over the season, so check back frequently. Visit churchmouseyarns.com/about/event calendar.

PUGET SOUND LYS TOUR. Wednesday–Sunday, May 15–19th. Extended hours: Wednesday–Saturday 10–8, Sunday 10–6. Free patterns, discounts, daily drawings and \$1,500 in grand prizes at 26 Local Yarn Shops around Puget Sound, including yours truly. So gather your fellow fiber fans and hit the road! We'd love to see you on the Island if you can fit us in. See more at lystour.com.



WAX & WOOL POP-UP SHOP. Friday, May 17th 10:00-4:00pm. Local artisan Kjerste Whaley will showcase many of

her creatively scented, hand-poured, 100% soy candles, including '*Ticking*,' her new Churchmouse exclusive for spring.

SMITH TEA TASTING. Saturday May 18th 12:00–4:00pm. Sip and savor beautiful blends, learn some fascinating histories, and take a memorable tour with Smith 'tea wallah', Alix Walper, from Portland. Free.

**SEMI-ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE. Saturday–Sunday, July 27th–28th.** Take **40–50% OFF selected items** in our Island store and online. Help us make room for new autumn yarns!

Choose a new pattern FREE\* with purchase, online and in our Island store.

PATTERN LAUNCH PARTY!

Join us all day on **Saturday**, **May 4th** as we celebrate five new *Churchmouse Classics* designed to build your wardrobe and boost your skills. Meet some of the Churchmouse design team, and try on samples.

\*One per customer please.



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