

CONNECTING THREADS

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in the bleak midwinter. . . .

It is that time of year when one wonders if the sun has been hidden by Jack Frost, never to appear again. It reminds me of one of my favorite Christmas songs which begins with "In the Bleak Mid Winter. . ."

But, even as the grey skies of winter are above us, I find myself looking at the bark of trees with a different perspective, enjoying the varying shades of brown and grays which other seasons I don't even

appreciate when surrounded by more vivid color.

I have a favorite quote:

"Hope . . . if winter comes can spring be far behind?" It is a promise of longer days to come after the bleak midwinter.



Special points of interest:

- Green in the midst of winter in new colors
- A Good Read from Paul Adams [The Rinaldi Quartet](#)
- Handmade Soap & Body Butters
- Savoring Life in Winter
- Designs featuring our threads at Nashville

New Soap Scents & Body Butters

We make skin moisturizing soaps and body butters as a side business. If you want to pamper yourself then you've got to try our products. For stitchers, the soap cleans your hands before you stitch, imparting a nice moisture with the shea butter we've added to our recipe. Homemade soap has the natural glycerin, and none of the detergents often added to store bought soap that leaves your skin feeling dry and irritated. After stitching, the body butter is just the right moisturizer. We offer a wide variety of scents as well as an unscented for those that prefer no scent. Some of our newest soap scents include: Cherry

Almondine, Vanilla Mint, and Sister Grey (pomegranate with bergamot mint and dead sea mud) and Orange Amber. We offer scent families (several choices in each) sweet & decadent, warm & spicy, fruity, floral, clean & fresh as well as vanilla, oatmeal milk & honey and special scent combinations. If you are a child of the Hippy Generation you might like our Sun Child scent which combines patchouli, litsea cubea, & orange. I am not a patchouli fan but I love this scent! Body butters in most of the scent families with favorites such as It's Your Birthday!, French vanilla, and new Tropical Fusion and Honey Peach. Phone us at (208) 387-2641 to order or view & order at our etsy shop at:

<http://soaponawhim.etsy.com>

New Colors

We will be releasing some new colors soon. Mr. Mineri's Opal, Water Nymph, Irish Cobb, Jaded Ivory Silk 'n Colors with 2 as yet unnamed colors being added to the Tints Tones & Shades in the Silk 'n Colors. We are getting ready to dye new colors in our Sea Grass Line as well.

We have five new colors in our Silk Chenille line: four greens that include Wetland Swamp, Olive Pit, Army Fatigue, and Grass Roots. A new soft rose is being named. For those of you

who also quilt you will see our threads used in Sue Spargo's beautiful wool appliqué quilts. Check out Sue's work at: www.suespargo.com

We are adding a new brown to our Oriental Linen line: Reindeer Paws.

We have discontinued the following colors from our Silk 'n Colors line:

SNC 011, 003, 005, 024, 057, 070, 084, 242, 257, 65, 224, 267, 972, 971, 286



Shades of green on the drying rack

A Design by Shakespeare's Peddler

Theresa from Shakespeare's Peddler has used five of our silk 'n Colors and a Silken Ribbon in this beautiful new sampler being released in February at Nashville. Thread Packs will be available shortly for pre-order.



"In the Springtime the only pretty ring time. . . Birds sing Hey ding, a ding a ding. Sweet Lovers love the Spring"

See www.shakespearespeddler.com to order this pattern. Visit Theresa's blog at:

<http://shakespearespeddler.blogspot.com>

Start following our own blog at:

<http://thethreadgatherer.blogspot.com>

Winter Life Savors

Ice Skating. . . .

A new Springerle mold for making cookies. . .

Old Lace. . .

A new needlework project begun. . .

Rusched Ribbon. . .

Pin cushions. . .

Handwritten letters. . .

White flowers. . .

Bare tree bark. . .

The first gardening catalogs

Thai food. . .

Geese in the park. . .

A Hand woven winter scarf. .

.

Spinning yarn on my spinning wheel . . .

Beginning a new book. . .

Puppy kisses. . .

Making bread. . .

And don't forget the honey butter. . .

A 'Good Read'

I play the violin and love the history of violin making—especially old Italian Violins. Thus, the book [The Rinaldi Quartet](#) by Paul Adams caught my eye. It is a good mystery, mixed with violin making history and myth. I was immediately caught up

in it and literally had to force myself to put the book down.

If you haven't seen the movie [The Red Violin](#) you just might want to rent it as well. . . .

Violin history & mystery at its best...

You won't be able to put this book

down.

The Thread Gatherer Blog

We have a blog!! Please visit us and mark us as a favorite. Our blog is:

<http://thethreadgatherer.blogspot.com>

You will want to check our blog frequently as we will be updating it often and having some fun give-a-ways for those who post

comments. We are excited to have a blog for you to follow.

The Thread Gatherer

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Reminders of Gentler Times in Hand-dyed Threads & Ribbons

More Discontinued Colors from other lines:

SR4 & SR7 181

SR4 201 & 204

SR7 053, 152

SP10 241, 024 & 122

Nashville News

There will be many new designs at Nashville and we are excited that our threads are being used in many of the finest new designs being released. You got a peek at the new sampler by Shakespeares Peddler in this newsletter.

Another of our silks (SNC 038) is being used in the upcoming Hawk Run Hollow by Carriage House Samplings. I'm loving the pictures of the blocks!

Just Nan will be releasing a new kit using our Silk 'n Colors.

Fern Ridge Collection has new offerings with our threads and ribbons.

Giulia from Punti Antichi is teaching at

Do you like Sour Dough? I've been baking sourdough bread and making sour dough bagels lately. If you are interested in sour dough from Italy (my favorite), San Francisco, Russia, South Africa (for whole wheat), French etc. then here is the link to the website where you can purchase all the sour dough starts plus a wonderful book on baking sour dough. I've currently got 5 different sour dough starts that I am keeping fed and using.

www.sourdo.com

Sourdoughs International

PO Box 670

Cascade, ID 83611

Classic Sourdoughs by Ed Wood & Starts available from Ed Wood

At the website above

Nashville using our threads.

The Primitive Needle is using 13 different Silks in two new pieces. I can't wait to see them!

There are usually more new designs but often we don't know about them ahead of time.

At the printing of this newsletter these are just some of the designs you will want to order from your local needlework store using our threads and ribbons.



Pre-order now from your local needlework shop so you can stitch new designs immediately following market. . .