

The Star Stitcher Contest

The Star Stitcher Search is a nation-wide contest sponsored by the National NeedleArts Association (TNNA), of which Skein Lane is an active member. Star Stitchers were nominated by needle arts shops around the country this spring. Retail shops were asked to nominate those stitchers who were outstanding in their contributions to the needle arts and the community. Shops could nominate as many Star Stitchers as they wished, and Skein Lane had many outstanding stitchers who deserve recognition. Skein Lane nominated Star Stitchers Jane Cavalli, Dorothy Smith-Brown and Barbara Hazard.

The Vote

Voting was done by the membership of the TNNA—retail shops from around the country. The Star Stitchers were announced Wednesday, June 2, 2004. Jane and Dorothy were selected as TNNA's 2004 Star Stitchers from a large group of very accomplished and deserving stitchers, needlepointers, knitters and crocheters.

The Award

The two Star Stitchers each win a large gift certificate for merchandise from Skein Lane. Star Stitchers will be honored at a special ceremony at the TNNA Spring/Summer 2005 tradeshow in Long Beach, California. They will receive an all-expense paid trip to the show for themselves and a guest.

Skein Lane is proud of all our stitchers, but we are especially pleased to congratulate Jane and Dorothy!

Dorothy lives on the plains of Eastern Colorado in her home in Stratton. It was in this small community that Carolyn Pugh, Skein Lane's owner, first met Dorothy. She was Carolyn's home economics teacher from junior high school through 12th grade.

Dorothy and her husband, Oscar, farmed in Arriba, Colorado for several years before moving to Stratton. There, both Dorothy and her husband taught school while raising their four children. Over the years, Dorothy taught hundreds of Stratton students and truly inspired some.

Six years under Dorothy's tutelage has had a lasting influence on Carolyn. She learned the arts of stitching, sewing, cooking, home management, personal development...just to name a few! Dorothy has a wonderful eye for design and new ideas and inspired her students in doing the same.

Dorothy was teaching the stitching arts long before it became as popular as it is now. And to this day- almost 40 years later- Carolyn draws on the knowledge that Dorothy imparted every day. Whether it is helping customers to modify their knitted garments to fit or to assisting with appropriate design selections, Carolyn draws on what she learned from Dorothy.

She recently celebrated her 91st birthday and continues to lead an active life and contribute to her community. In the fall of 2002 (Nov. 28) she was featured in the *Rocky Mountain News*. With the headline of "A Feast for Five Generations," Dorothy was acknowledged for her "Martha Stewart"-like skills. She also was recently featured on the front page of the Stratton newspaper; she and other quilters had just completed quilts for a community effort.

Skein Lane is also proud to honor Dorothy because she fought and survived breast cancer some 50 years ago. Skein Lane is working with The National NeedleArts Association, the sponsor of this award, in a national campaign to raise awareness about the disease via the needle arts community.