

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
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JUNE 2018 UPDATE

June



Dear Stitchers,

Ah, summer -- sunny weather is ahead and we are lovin' it! Days are longer, colors are brighter and an "easy-does-it" attitude says it's time to relax and enjoy. The season's mellow mood lends itself to colors, fibers, details and a laid-back style. This is the perfect set-up for summer stitching!

Project ideas? TAHKI YARNS says: "It's time to embrace basic tees. Easily styled up or down, they can be paired with maxi and mini skirts, cuffed boyfriend jeans or leggy skinnies, or tucked into high-waisted culottes -- you're only limited by your wardrobe". Think "borrowed from the boys" but with a feminine touch, such as a soft neckline or delicate trim. Comfy sporty basics are always in style with simple straight lines, bold stripes and bright colors. Our favorites are made with summer fibers like *Cotton Classic* or *Tandem* -- these always provide breezy summer tops perfect for work, weekend, and summer wandering.

TAHKI YARNS continues: "The peasant blouse with its gathered boat neckline and laced tie is back in style this season. With a relaxed fit and quiet, feminine allure, this style is surprisingly versatile". Hot on the heels of the "athleisure trend" are garments with lots of flow, ease, and drapery silhouettes. We love that relaxed fit look!

Summer knitting and crocheting can be stunning -- elegant openwork shawls are always a perfect project choice. Beautiful lace patterns are light enough for summer stitching and summer wear. Bring some foliage hues into your wardrobe by adding delicate hues of pink and green, inspired by rose gardens.

Our newest summer cotton, linen and blend fibers would be a great addition to a well-balanced stash. Discover our unique selection of yarns, needles, hooks, interchangeable, patterns, accessories, gadgets and project ideas, all selected to enhance your stitching experience. We are summer ready -- bring it on!

"HAVE YARN -- WILL TRAVEL!"

**10% off all purchases of in-stock, regularly-priced yarn
2000 yards or more (single purchase total)
throughout June 2018**

**Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday through Saturday, closed Sundays
Closed Memorial Day May 28, 2018**

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX
Private knitting and crocheting lessons
Instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates available
Mail orders available -- no order too small!
Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
Like us, follow us and share us on Facebook!
"We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website <http://www.kathys-kreations.com>



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Summer starts here! Don't forget to pack your stitching tote for warm weather or vacation travels, whether it's far or near. Combine cool plant fibers and irresistible designs with air conditioning or a cool breeze to keep perfectly content as you stitch, unwind and relax. Summer was made for stitching! Here are new fun products to keep you enthusiastic about your knitting and crocheting all summer long...

Welcome to *Interweave Knits Summer 2018: The Southwest Issue* (\$7.99, shown upper left). This edition is packed full of 16 modern, appealing and knittable designs. It features both lacy knits for blazing days and all-season knits for cooler climates. Find all-season garments and accessories inspired by the cultures, hues, textiles, history, architecture, and art of the Southwest. Explore colorwork, slip stitch motifs, cables, and a bit of fringe in this trendy collection that marries traditional techniques and modern appeal. In the High Desert Lace story, find wearable, breezy, lacy, and bohemian-inspired garments that you can wear in the scorching summer sun. Read about the Navajo weavers that helped build the BROWN SHEEP COMPANY and how that important relationship still lives on today. See cool fiber blends, products and notions that are sure to inspire. Learn how to knit perfect jogless cast-ons and bind-offs when knitting in the round. Embrace your creativity, passion, and purpose, plus find out how Marilyn Monroe made knitwear iconic in this issue of *Knits*...

Bring your hand knit items to their full potential with blocking pins, wires and boards -- achieve the perfect size and shape, open up lace and show off your stitches. We recommend KNITTER'S PRIDE stainless steel blocking wires (\$26.50/set), revolutionary tool "Knit Blockers" (\$26.50/set) which eliminates the need for lots of T-pins, and blocking mats (\$31.00, set of 9 interlocking mats). The 12" X 12" individual mats can be used individually to block swatches and small items, or joined together for larger projects like shawls and sweater sections. CLOVER "Wonder Clips" (\$7.50/set of 10) have a great holding capacity for assembly and seaming garments...

When cleaning your knits to prepare for blocking if laundering is necessary or desired, we recommend EUCULAN, a gentle no-rinse wash cleaner for all your handmade delicates (\$14.95, 16.9 fl. oz., in unscented, original, lavender and grapefruit scents). Here's a blocking tip from Kathy: add a tiny drop of Eucalan to your blocking spray water bottle to help disperse surface tension and clean any oil residue that may have transferred from your hands while knitting or crocheting your project...

New shades of BERROCO "Pima 100" yarn have arrived (\$10.50, 100 grams, 219 yards, 100% pima cotton). This is a gorgeous worsted weight 100% pima cotton yarn with a nice, tight twist that will provide excellent stitch definition. Its superior softness and range of elegant, contemporary shades makes it perfect for warm-weather garments including tops, cardigans, and shawls. Unmercerized cotton lends a heathery, matte finish to the color palette. It's no wonder this is rapidly becoming a customer favorite!

"Encore" in disguise! The same legendary yarn that has delighted knitters and crocheters for over 30 years is now available in a popular "cake" put-up, "Hot Cakes" (\$13.50, shown lower right in autumn & pastel mix colorways). Each 200 gram cake boasts over 400 yards of a wonderful easy-care machine washable yarn. All the color stripes in "Hot Cakes" were chosen directly from PLYMOUTH YARNS "Encore" line, making the mixing and matching possibilities endless...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

We are excited to announce the arrival of ADDI EasyKnit circulars in sizes US 6, 7, & 8 (\$17.50, shown right). These cleverly designed circular needles feature two different needle tip lengths (one short and one long), making them easier to grip. The EasyKnit needles measure in at 10" length and provide comfort to the user when working smaller projects in the round (socks, sleeves, cuffs, hats, etc.).



A new shipment of ADDI Flexi Flips has arrived, including the smaller sizes (\$24.50/set), but they are selling fast once more. These act as flexible double-pointed needles and have been very popular. Easy to use, stitches are simply distributed over two needles, and then knit with the third, resulting in only two needle changes per round. They feature a dual-tip design with both an ADDI Rocket tip (sharp) and an ADDI Turbo tip (tapered). Big exciting news from SKACEL -- ADDI will introduce BAMBOO Flexi Flip sets this fall -- preorders are being accepted for interested customers (retail expected to be \$32.50/set)...

For many of our customers, their favorite summertime knitting projects are socks. We recently had a customer visiting from Texas tell us that she purchases a skein of sock yarn from local yarn shops along the way when she travels, and knits a pair of socks as a vacation "souvenir" from her trip. Great idea! Socks are portable, provide relatively quick gratification, and they look and FEEL wonderful. There is nothing quite as comfy as a well-fitting pair of custom hand knitted socks. We also have a variety of excellent yarns, books and patterns for sock knitting -- both toe-up and cuff-down -- as well as a large selection of needles, from double-pointed to 9" & 12" circulars to two circls to Flexi Flips to EasyKnit and Magic Loop. Fun innovative tools include the Sock Ruler (\$12.95), SUSAN BATES Sock-Shaped Point Protectors (\$2.95), and the clever Sock Doctor key chain (\$8.50) featuring the anatomy of a sock & how-tos for the Kitchener Stitch. A tip from our knitting friend Eleanor Swogger: choose a yarn with a tight twist for socks -- they will wear longer! Eleanor thinks that the twist is even more important for durability than added nylon reinforcement...

Attention, Michelle "Knit Purl" Hunter fans! Michelle's newest design is *Channing Road* (\$5.00, Ravelry Pro download), a stunning blanket / throw that is written for baby, medium and large sizes. Knit with HiKOO "Simpliworsted" (\$16.50, 100 grams, 55% superwash merino /28% acrylic /17% nylon, CYCA #4), this reversible and classic pattern is sure to become an heirloom for your most knit worthy loved ones. Comprised of all knit and purl stitches, the textured pattern is simple yet interesting to work for all levels of knitters. Both written and charted instructions are provided along with video tutorials...

Please mark your calendars for the 5th annual Steel Valley Yarn Crawl slated for August 3 - 12, 2018. Join us for ten fun-filled days "crawling" your way through participating yarns shops in the Pittsburgh and western PA area! The photo shows the 2018 yarn crawl and passport (lower left, yarn not included).

This self-guided tour is a great way to see what our local fiber arts community has to offer and to meet other yarn crafters. It is an excellent opportunity for fiber enthusiasts to discover new projects, classes and yarns as they peruse the offerings at each store (in no required order). The crawl will feature a "passport" to get stamped at each store. To add to the fun, you will have lots of chances to win PRIZES! PASSPORTS AND TOTE BAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE HERE NOW FOR \$12.00, SO BE SURE TO GET YOURS EARLY, AS SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED! This year's bag features an extra bonus gift -- a carabiner that's ideal for organizing stitch markers and other stitching gear. Each bag purchased at Kathy's Kreations will feature an exclusive free yarn charm that doubles as a stitch marker or zipper pull. Stay tuned for updates about this event...





*** JUNE KNIT ALONG ***

Our June knit-along finds us knitting up a versatile accessory by DELICIOUS YARNS called the *T-Shirt Shawl* that is perfect for a variety of occasions, from work to casual to evening (see pages 6 & 7 for pattern; thank you, Delicious Yarns!). Purchase a skein or two of "Sweets Fingering" from our shelves and join us to make this drapery shawl turned t-shirt made from stockinette and lace. We hope that you will join us every Friday in June at Kathy's Kreations from 10 am - 2 pm for this group project, the continuation of previous KALs, or any other works in progress purchased here. If you can't join us in person, please follow us on the June 2018 shop thread at "We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry...

*** UPCOMING KNITTING CLASSES ***

Our *Building Blocks* class series with instructor Karen McCullough continues on **Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. Each month, Karen introduces you to a new skill with a different block from Michelle Hunter's *Building Blocks* book. This month's lesson is *Advanced Decreases*, a method of decreasing stitches with a vertical stitch that lies with no lean to create many decorative possibilities...

Make your summer last all year long with the *Sunset in the Bahamas Scarf* (shown upper left). Its vivid colors and sunset motif will remind you of your favorite vacation sunset. *Sunset in the Bahamas* plays with color by working the dark and light sections of the yarn in different stitch patterns, so no two scarves will be exactly alike. Join instructor Kathy Erhard and practice lace chart reading skills and learn to graft garter stitch. Check with Kathy Z for 2 skeins of KATIA "Darling" (50 grams/1.75 oz., 208 yards/190m, 60% virgin wool / 40% nylon, CYCA #2) or similar yarn and bring size US 6 (4mm) needles. Class will be held on **Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 9:00 am - 12 noon** at Kathy's Kreations. Class fee is \$25, which includes the pattern. Please call 724-238-9320 to register...

In our series of lace classes, students will master lace knitting one section at a time. Join our instructor Kathy Erhard as she demonstrates lace skills and work along to make your own gorgeous lace shawl as a wearable showcase of your skills. Our next class is scheduled for **Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm** at Kathy's Kreations, and will be held the third Saturday of each month from **June through October**. It's not too late to join the group and take your lace skills from casual to experienced as the series continues!

Texture knitting enthusiasts will really love this month's lace pattern, as Michelle Hunter's *Building With Lace* shawl adds the Smocking Stitch to its repertoire of amazing lace stitches (shown lower right). Decorative Smocking Stitch can be used to change the width of knitted fabric, but in pattern its addition adds a bit of depth to the fabric while preserving the original width. Students are using the gorgeous HiKoo by Skacel RYLIE (50% baby alpaca, 25% mulberry silk, 25% linen) yarn, so see Kathy for this yarn or a suitable substitute and bring size 5 and 6 24" circular needles. No additional tools are required for this stitch pattern. Join us on June 16, 2018, from 1 pm - 4 pm and learn how to add this beautiful texture to lace. The class fee is \$20 per session. Please call 724-238-9320 to register...

*** WORLD-WIDE KNIT IN PUBLIC DAY ***

"Better living through stitching" is the theme. This unique event began as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company. Our next door neighbor, Laurie McGinnis of SECOND CHAPTER BOOKS, has graciously agreed to allow us to use the courtyard that connects our two shops for our event. We hope that you will join us on **Saturday, June 9, 2018 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**. Thanks, Laurie!



*** HAVE CRAFT BAG -- WILL TRAVEL ***

Our thanks to Sharon Greve for graciously granting permission to reprint her "Dropped Stitch" column from the PA/WV Register May-June 2018. This is perfect timing as many of us have travel plans for our summer vacations. In fact, Kathy's planned knitting projects are the first things packed in her suitcase! Sharon writes:

"Vacations are a time to relax and decompress -- right? But, as we all know, travel itself is stressful, especially air travel. However, knitting and crocheting have been proven to help reduce stress. Since most airlines limit carry-on bags to one personal item (purse or laptop bag) to be stored under the seat in front of you and one small suitcase in the overhead storage, place your craft bag and purse into the personal item bag. This assures your project will be with you and handy for long or delayed flights. The following travel pack checklist will help you pack your crafting bag for easy airport security and enjoyable flights.

CRAFT BAG CONTENTS

HOOKS AND NEEDLES: Pack them for easy access. No rules disallow sewing needles. To be on the safe side, don't take your best hooks or needles. Crochet hooks are typically allowed with no issues. Pack plastic or bamboo hooks or knitting needles which are less threatening as weapons than aluminum or steel hooks.

SCISSORS: These are often considered potential weapons. Pointed-tip metal scissors longer than four inches are banned from planes. Instead, substitute a pair of child's plastic scissors or a dental floss container with thread cutter.

STITCH MARKERS: Pack several as they are necessary for those unexpected pauses without losing your place or dropping stitches.

PATTERN: You can't work if the pattern is left at home. Minimize the directions on small sheets of paper on a small magnetic board so you don't have to juggle a large floppy sheet on your lap which will slide off.

ROW COUNTER: It's a necessary item to avoid being lost (leads to frustration) as to which row or stitch you are on with all the travel conversations, noise, and interruptions that take place in an airport and on planes. An offline phone app also works.

YARN: Include what you will use on each flight, pack the remainder in your suitcase.

Washable yarn is best. Turbulence can cause spills right onto your project. Lighter weights are best, such as worsted weight, sport or DK. Bulky yarns demand too much packing space and they don't offer a lot of yardage. What a shame to quickly use up the yarn and find yourself sitting in an airport for hours with nothing to work on due to flight delays. Center-pull yarn skeins/balls are great because they don't move around and are less likely to fall off your lap to a floor space you can't reach. Leave color change projects at home. The many balls of color absorb suitcase space and more movement in your seat. Consider monochromatic projects or a variegated yarn.

Crochet Thread: Although thread is lighter than yarn, it's not a first choice for plane travel unless you are an experienced crocheter. Turbulence can cause the sharp hook point to jam into your hand, the needle to drop on the plane floor to who knows where, and the thread ball to roll somewhere undesirable. Also, thread requires more concentration than what you have on a long flight.

Remember you are on vacation to enjoy yourself which includes feeling well. Don't craft continuously. Take short breaks, stopping every half hour for a few minutes. Stay alert for flight information to avoid stress.

Due to the closeness of plane seats, your arms won't fit naturally in your seat space which can cause tension in your wrists, pain in your neck and shoulders and even lead to headaches. Use a stitch marker in your work, set your project in your lap and release the tension from your body. If possible, do some micro-stretching, especially for hands and wrists, in your seat during short breaks.

Don't hesitate to use your overhead light to avoid eye strain while working in a low-lit place.

TSA and airline guidelines are occasionally updated. Check the official list of prohibited items before flying. Traveling internationally? Double-check the above information as rules often differ and can be more strict at foreign airports than in the United States. A broken foreign rule can lead to a disastrous vacation. No one wants that experience!

READY -- PACKED -- GO"

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T-Shirt Shawl

ingredients:

Yarn:**Delicious Yarns Sweets Fingering**

1 (2, 2) skeins (100 gms, 450 yds each)

(Shown here in Cotton Candy and below in Rock Candy)

Needles:

US #5 24" or 32" circ needles

US #8 24" or 32" circ needles

(or sizes needed to achieve gauge)

Other Stuff:

Stitch markers, Darning needle

6 small buttons

details:

Gauge: 20 sts = 4" in st st

To fit bust size: 34" (36", 38")

Shawl is not form fitting.

Finished measurements: Length from top center to bottom point, down center line: 25" (28", 31")

Delicious Yarns™



www.deliciousyarns.com

info@deliciousyarns.com

Our sincere thanks to Marcy and Jacqueline of DELICIOUS YARNS for graciously sharing this pattern with us -- let's make something delicious!

T-Shirt Shawl

Co 2 sts. Work garter tab as follows:

Knit 6 rows. Pick up 3 sts into left side of knitting and 2 sts into cast on stitches. You should now have 7 total stitches.

Set up row: (WS) K2, yo, p1, pm, p1, pm, p1, yo, k2. (9 sts)

Stockinette Section:

Row 1: (RS) K2, yo, k to marker, yo, sm, k1, sm, yo, k to last 2 st, yo, k2. (13 sts)

Row 2: (WS) K2, yo, p to last 2 sts, yo, k2. (15 sts)

Repeat rows 1 and 2 ten more times for a total of 22 rows. (75 sts at end of first Stockinette Section)

Yarn Over Lace Section: (NOTE: Please follows the lace pattern instructions very carefully!)

Row 1: (RS) K2, yo, (k2tog, yo) to 1 st before marker, k1, yo, sm, K1, sm, yo, k1, (yo, k2tog) to last 2 st, yo, k2.

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8: (WS) K2, yo, p to last 2 sts, yo, k2.

Row 3: (RS) K2, yo, k1, (k2tog, yo) to 1 st before marker, k1, yo, sm, K1, sm, yo, k1, (yo, k2tog) to last 3 st, k1, yo, k2.

Row 5: (RS) K2, yo, (k2tog, yo) to 1 st before marker, k1, yo, sm, K1, sm, yo, k1, (yo, k2tog) to last 2 sts, yo, k2.

Row 7: (RS) Repeat Row 3

Work these 8 rows of Lace Section once.

Alternate between Stockinette Section and Yarn Over Lace Section for eight rows each until 16 (18, 20) sections have been completed.

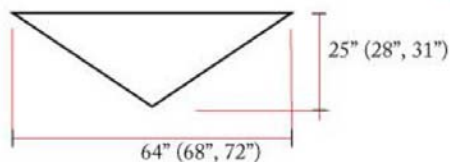
Two Row Bind Off:

Using #8 needle:

Row 1: (k1, p1, pull the k st over the p st, binding it off) repeat across row. All p sts remain on the needle. Turn work.

Row 2: Slip first 2 sts purlwise. Pull the first stitch over the second, binding it off. (Slip next st purlwise and pull first stitch over this one) repeat across row until 1 st remains. Sew this stitch down to the knitting.

Sew in loose ends.



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Small buttons can be used to connect the edges in back and under the arms for the t-shirt look. Wear it many ways and look yummy!



***** CALENDAR OF EVENTS *****

Join the "First Mondays" group for an evening of knitting, crocheting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate in Greensburg, PA. Next meeting dates are Monday evenings **June 4, 2018 & July 2, 2018; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm.**

***** "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesdays, June 12, 2018 & July 10, 2018; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please, all skill levels welcome) ***** Join us for stitching & lots of fun conversation!

***** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT June 9, 2018 & July 14, 2018; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please, all skill levels welcome) *****

Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship and stitching for projects purchased here. Our June sit-n-knit coincides with WWKIP Day -- join us for knitting in the courtyard!

***** FUN FRIDAYS, June 15, 2018 and July 20, 2018; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm *****

Come in for the yarn and leave with friendships! Join our "knitting community" for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Whether this is your first project or your hundredth, this is the place for you to learn, grow and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters just like you...

***** JUNE KNIT-ALONG (KAL) *****

Stop by on Fridays in June from 10 am - 2 pm (rsvp please) to work on our newest KALs with your stitching friends to cheer you on. Make something delicious with our "Simple Tee Shawl" from DELICIOUS YARNS. Not working on the KAL? You are still welcome to come -- simply bring any knit or crochet project purchased at Kathy's Kreations and join the group (free!). Follow us on "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group June 2018 thread...

***** "ANTIQUES" SIDEWALK SALE Saturday, June 2, 2018, 10 am - 5 pm *****

***** "BUILDING BLOCKS" Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 10:00 am - 12 noon (knit class)*****

***** "SUNSET IN THE BAHAMAS" Saturday, June 23, 2018 9:00 am - 12 noon (knit class) *****

***** "BUILDING WITH LACE" Saturday, June 23, 2018, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (knit class) *****

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. Learning to knit or correcting mistakes are not the only reasons to have a one-on-one tutoring lesson. Learn new techniques like lace or short rows, or get help with a pattern before starting -- our instructors can do it all! Additional group classes are forming -- ask us for details. We would be glad to do a specific class topic for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for more than 38 years!

Summer is one of our favorite times in Ligonier. This year, it's so full of promise -- the promise of something new and exciting and good. The heart of Ligonier's business community, the Diamond, is undergoing a Renaissance. We anticipate the promise of a "reborn" town square in late summer/early fall. Borough Council has declared "Free Parking on Saturday" in Ligonier during the Construction and there will be a free shuttle between Country Market and town on Saturday mornings -- come shop with us! We are pleased to be a destination spot and look forward to your visit!

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy