



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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APRIL 2009 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Knitting is always evolving, always re-inventing itself. This season is no exception. Not only does our favorite pasttime express warmth and love (think baby blankets, scarves, gifts for friends & family), but also fun, fashion, color and style.

Our number one reason to knit? It's calming. The repetitive clicking of our needles is relaxing and serene. Most knitters hate to miss even one day of stitching, even as warmer weather approaches. In our fast-paced, high-tech world, we seem to thrive on the mental concentration required to start, stitch, and complete a project. It's easier to let the stress go when the only tension we care about is yarn, needles and gauge.

Our projects are very personal and express our unique personalities. Knitting is stimulating, imaginative and almost addictive. Beyond all the stunning stitches to choose from, there are patterns, yarns, and endless colors to consider. Knitting is not only productive, it offers a connection to a simpler time. Need more reasons to knit? Stop by to see us soon and find your creative vibe...

" KNIT, KNIT, KNIT "

**All regularly-priced PLYMOUTH YARNS (all weights)
in stock are 10% off during April 2009**

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open
We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover/Novus, AX

Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services available
Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
Telephone 724-238-9320
e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

You love yarn, adore color and fiber as much as we do. It's a great time to be a knitter -- spring 2009 has it all! Everyday knits can be practical and pretty. A well-appointed outfit is put together with thought and a discerning eye. It isn't about a perfect match, but co-ordinating things. This season is about having fun -- you know how to knit & crochet and making choices that work for you. Here's a sampling of our top picks...

Explore the full spectrum in your approach to knits with the Spring 2009 issue of *Knitter's Magazine* (\$5.95). Color, stitch, technique -- you decide what matters and what you enjoy. Then, you can change and alter to your heart's content. Whether you prefer to knit small projects like socks and bags, or prefer shawls and sweaters, this issue has plenty to offer. And, Elise Duvekot translates the knit one below stitch, one of our favorites.

Two of Kathy's designs are featured in this issue. Add romance to your spring wardrobe with elegant stitchwork. "Coral Columns" button front lace tunic (shown upper left) shines with its clean lines and pale coloring. KNITTER'S says, "Soft color and impeccable stitch work unite for a sophisticated, almost vintage-looking top. The columns of feather and fan, seed stitch borders, and full-length button band elongate the silhouette -- a plus for any figure. Added details of side vents and antique crystal buttons make this an heirloom-quality knit". This tunic was knit from ROWAN Pure Life "Organic Cotton DK" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 131 yards, 100% organic cotton, CYCA yarn classification 3).

"Saltillo" (shown lower right), is a textured, slip-stitch one-button cardigan that takes its colors from Mexican red-clay tiles. The colors are switched from body to sleeve. KNITTER'S says, "Positive and negative is not reserved for black and white or high-contrast. Mix it up with tones as we have done in this jacket: orange accents the caramel body, and caramel accents the orange sleeves". The garment is worked from NASHUA HANDKNITS Creative Focus Silk" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 120 yards, 100% silk, CYCA yarn classification 4), now on our shelves...

INTERWEAVE CROCHET Spring 2009 (\$6.99) features 20 fresh designs for spring, lace made easy, and full-figure fits that flatter. Kathy had the pleasure of visiting with Editor Kim Werker at the Season 3 tapings of Knitting Daily TV -- Kim brings so much fun to this needleart and the kind of innovative designs that encourage fiber lovers to explore this craft for the first time. Learn about linked crochet or try the rib & fan socks (so many of our crochet customers have requested socks!). There are baby bibs, capelets for special occasions, a market bag, spring tops, lacy sweaters, and much more...

The highlight of KNIT SIMPLE Spring / Summer 2009 (\$6.99) is the 101 top knit tips from the staff and experts, a real "keeper". Many of the projects are worked with "green" eco-friendly yarns that Mother Nature would approve. -- it's so easy being green. Warm weather, cool knits, earth-friendly fibers -- what could be more natural?

Formal affair, garden tea or a night on the town? There are dressy, party-perfect knit accents to make every occasion extra-special. And get ready for summer with family essentials and ocean-hued shore wear items. If your home is needing a little spruce-up, there are bright decor items for buffet, bath, boudoir and beyond...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

It's that transitional time of year when we re-think our wardrobe and add one or two perfect handmade sweaters or accessories that compliment our closet fare. Recent requests are for easy-to-knit tops that look great paired with tees and jeans. Our favorite pattern, K1, C2's



"Yin Yang Bolero" (\$4.50, shown upper right) is a garter stitch cropped cardi, worked starting at the bottom of each front, up to the shoulders where all stitches are joined, new stitches are cast on for the neck, then the back is worked down to the lower edge in one piece. The original design is worked in two shades of "TyDy" (\$14.50, 100 grams, 197 yards, 100% cotton, new shades now in stock). Another great design is an easy garter stitch vest from NASHUA HANDKNITS "Daylily" booklet (shown lower left, \$10.50). Both of these designs can be accented with great buttons. Speaking of buttons, be sure to join us on Saturday, May 16, for a "Big Button Event" with designer Eileen Petre (details on page 5). Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS will also be here for the button event -- see Eileen's buttons on Lisa's "Cabled V Vests" (\$4.00), simple stockinette V-neckvests with a simple rope cable along the fronts, always stylish...

Just in time for proms, weddings, and enchanted evenings comes FILATURA DI CROSA Golden Line "New Smoking" (\$10.50, 25 grams, 131 yards, 65% viscose / 35% polyester, CYCA yarn classification 3). This is a gorgeous, sophisticated hint of glitz just perfect for trimming shawls and evening bags. Our favorite shawl pattern for all seasons is KEEP IT SIMPLE "Ruffled Shawl" (\$5.50) which will not only keep you warm, but looks quite "flirty" over a black evening dress. The ruffle is simple to create and the body of the shawl is simple garter. Our shop model uses FIESTA "La Boheme" (\$29.95, two-strand bulky weight yarn, 165 yards, 4 oz., 50% rayon / 32% brushed mohair / 14% wool / 4% nylon). Yummy new shades are here -- cloud, reflection, moccachino, surf and abalone...

In spring, a knitter's / crocheter's fancy turns to reorganizing -- stash, needles / hooks, projects. We've received new tote bags, needle carriers and mesh bags that are just the helpers you need...

How much yarn do you need for a crochet project? "The Crocheter's Handy Guide to Yarn Requirements" (\$5.95) by Ann Budd contains specific yardage requirements for nine of the most popular crocheted items -- caps, scarves, bags, afghans, ponchos, baby sweaters, short skirts, long skirts and tops. The yardages are given for working various sizes in single crochet using five standard yarn weights, from fingering to bulky. Keep this guide in your crochet bag and refer to it for all of your basic patterns. No



matter what size yarn you want to use, you will no longer guess how much to buy for an afghan for a new baby, a cap for your sister, a summer top for a friend, or a generous tote to hold your current project.

Also from Ann Budd is "The Knitter's Guide to Yarn Requirements" (\$5.95). This leaflet contains yarn yardage requirements for eight of the most popular knitted items: sweaters, vests, mittens, gloves, socks, scarves, tams and hats. Yardages are for sizes ranging from baby/toddler to large adult, and for multiple gauges appropriate for fine to bulky yarns. Keep these guides handy for those times when you just might buy yarn -- always!



*** ON OUR BOOKSHELVES PLUS ***

Have you seen Knitting Daily TV yet? This great show from INTERWEAVE PRESS -- which includes knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving, and more-- airs on PBS stations throughout the country.

Kathy has just returned from video-taping two segments for Knitting Daily TV. Her DVD entitled "Classic to Creative Knit Cables" is part of the Knitting Workshop Series, and features a 60-minute how-to with the Cable Queen herself. The DVD will be available for sale in July 2009, when the segment airs. It includes two of Kathy's original designs, The Deep Creek Scarf, and The Princess Cable Sweater, both worked with CLASSIC ELITE's "Princess" yarn. Stay tuned for details in upcoming newsletters and, yes, Kathy is absolutely thrilled to be part of Season 3 of Knitting Daily TV. Kathy's Designer Spotlight mini-session with INTERWEAVE KNITS Editor, Eunny Jang, features the "Katherine Hepburn Cardigan" from the book *Lace Style* (shown upper left, softcover, \$24.95). The spotlight focuses on the lace & cable stitch pattern combinations used in this design...

Be sure to check out the INTERWEAVE PRESS books in stock from the "Style" series:

Simple Style (\$24.95, softcover, newly released) -- take a break from knitting fussy garments with complicated techniques. Instead, knit simple, beautiful designs with interesting details and silhouettes with this collection of 19 contemporary garments that deliver stunning results without intricate techniques...

Wrap Style (\$21.95, softcover) -- shawls, ponchos, and capelets look fabulous on everyone, no matter the occasion! Explore these intriguing patterns and wrap yourself in a whole new style. This collection includes Kathy's cabled "Cashmere Crossings" poncho, which could be worked as a splendid afghan...

Bag Style (\$21.95, softcover) -- custom handbags & handcrafted purses are hotter than ever, and bags are a trendy way to show off your personal style. What's more, bags are replacing scarves as the most popular small project to make. Whether knitted, crocheted, or felted, these designs give you endless ways to personalize a bag.

Color Style (\$24.95, softcover) -- learn ways to work color into a knitted project, from simple alternating stripes to multicolored Fair Isle. Get inspired by innovative patterns using traditional colorwork, perfect for beginners and experienced knitters alike...

Folk Style (\$24.95, softcover) -- celebrate the joys of living and knitting in an ever-changing world. Sixteen knitwear designers take inspiration from techniques and motifs from around the world and reinterpret them in this contemporary collection of folk knitting...

East meets West in innovative knitwear design with *Japanese Inspired Knits* (\$22.95, softcover). Inspired by the seasonal festivals and traditions of Japan, Marianne Isager blends traditional Scandinavian knitting with a distinctive Oriental influence. Explore beautiful design elements steeped in folk customs with these patterns created especially for women. True to the Japanese ideals of high-quality design and materials, Marianne presents 12 sweaters oriented around the months of the year...

Take your sock knitting off the charts! Cookie A's clever patterns push the boundaries of sock design. In *Sock Innovation: Knitting Techniques & Patterns for One-of-a-Kind Socks* (\$22.95, softcover), she explores the dramatic asymmetry, cables that travel off the grid, and addictive stitch patterns that have made her designs must-knits. Beginning with the fundamentals of sock construction and manipulation, this book leads leaders on a guided tour through the process of imagining and creating your own unconventional sock patterns...

BIG BUTTON EVENT MAY 16th & May 17th ***

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we host a "Big Button Event". The very talented Eileen Petre of "SOUP TO KNITS and Bull's Eye Buttons" will be our guest at Kathy's Kreations on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 9 am - 5 pm and at the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild Workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier on Sunday, May 17, 2009, 9 am - 4 pm. Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS will also be here on Saturday, with a trunk show of her designs that can be embellished with Eileen's buttons. Discover the possibilities and turn your creations into one-of-a-kind works of art (samples shown upper left).



Eileen's colorful hand-crafted polymer clay buttons come in a variety of shapes and sizes -- milleflori, stripes, geometrics, faux-marble, faux-stone, embossed -- you'll need to stop by to check out her fabulous collection for yourself! In addition, Eileen has delightful, bright handpainted birch needles with unique handcrafted polymer clay ends, available in sizes 6 - 13, and clay bead jewelry. We invite you to bring along your handpainted yarns and unfinished knit, crochet, & punch needle objects in need of embellishment for Eileen's advice and assistance -- here's your chance to meet a true artist-in-action!

*** LAUREL HIGHLANDS KNITTING GUILD WORKSHOP ***

The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild is delighted to sponsor a workshop with nationally-known knitting instructor, Shanta Moitra, on Sunday, May 17, 2009, 9 am - 4 pm. Shanta has taught throughout the country for The Knitting Guild Association and also for regional knitting guilds. The workshop topic is entitled "Beyond The Basics". The three-hour morning session will focus on intermediate cast-on methods such as purl cable cast on, invisible cast-on, decorative edgings, and other important considerations in beginning a sweater. The three-hour afternoon session will cover buttonholes / spacing, buttonbands, invisible bind-off, tips for picking up stitches, grafting & joins, grafting I-cord and special touches to finesse the end of the project. There will also be a mini-market with buttons, jewelry, and items from SOUP TO KNITS and Bull's Eye Buttons with artist Eileen Petre, and yarns & knitting supplies from Kathy's Kreations. The fee for this event is \$35.00, which includes lunch. For further details, please contact Kathy Zimmerman at Kathy's Kreations 724-238-9320...

*** KNITTING TIPS ***

Test out buttonholes on both the right and wrong-side rows. Depending on the pattern stitch, sometimes a buttonhole worked on the wrong side will look neater than if worked on the right side...

When working with cotton or a thick yarn, split the yarn tail in half when working in ends to reduce the bulk in the seam...

*** 2009 "DESIGN YOUR OWN SCARF" CONTEST ***

CLASSIC ELITE YARNS tells us 2009 has been designated as the "International Year of Natural Fibers". As part of this movement, we will be sponsoring our annual Design Your Own Scarf Contest for the 2009 Westmoreland County Agricultural Fair with the theme of natural-fiber yarns. Scarves must be hand-knit or crocheted with 100% animal or plant fibers or blends. It is not too soon to get started with your plans -- we look forward to seeing your creative entries in August at the County Fair...

*** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW ***

Betty K recently called about yarnovers: "I'm not sure I'm doing this correctly. What is the difference between a yarn-over and a make 1?"

With the renewed popularity of lace projects, we are getting more how-to questions. Knitted lace is an openwork fabric, created by pairing yarn-over increases with decreases in an organized sequence. The placement of the holes resulting from yarn-overs and angles of the corresponding decreases are the key to the lace design.



Both the yarn-over and make 1 increases are worked between stitches. When working a yarnover between knit stitches (the yarn is already at the back of the work), bring the yarn to the front **towards** you between the two needle points, wrap it over the needle towards the back to create a new stitch, then knit the next stitch. This creates a hole, or eyelet. Remember to always bring the yarn towards you.

A "make 1 (m1)" is worked without a resulting hole, it is less visible than a yarnover. "Make 1" stitches can slant either to the left (M1L, make 1 left) or to the right (M1R, make 1 right). When working between two knit stitches, the M1L (left-slanting increase) is worked by inserting the left-hand needle from front to back under the strand between the last stitch knitted and the first stitch on the left needle. Knit, twisting strand by working into the loop at the **back** of the needle. When working between two knit stitches, the M1R (right-slanting increase) is worked by inserting the left needle from front to back under the strand between the last stitch worked and the first stitch on the left needle. Knit, twisting the strand by working into the loop at the **front** of the needle.

*** KNITTING TIDBITS ***

Kathy was the featured guest teacher at the Deep Creek Knitting Retreat last month in Deep Creek, MD. During the Cable Workshop, one of the students shared a wonderful tip for keeping track of pattern rows when working stitch patterns. If you are working a pattern with rope cables crossing every 8th row, for example, make a chain of 8 CLOVER locking stitch marker / pins -- 7 in one color, 1 in a contrast. Each time you complete a row, advance the links of the chain up one notch. When you come to the contrasting color link, it's time to work the cable...

Unsure of what size to knit? Compare the schematic measurements with those of a favorite sweater...

As a general rule, garter stitch (knit every row) has twice as many rows per inch as it does stitches per inch...

What are some ways to find creative joy on a budget? Try the "one skein" strategy! Purchasing "just one" special skein of yarn often costs less than ordering out for pizza and much less than dinner & a movie, plus it provides more hours of entertainment value. This strategy works better than denying yourself "yarn fixes" entirely (as any dieter knows all too well). What can you make with a single skein of yarn? Socks, hats, mitts, knitted cuffs, a cell phone case, a dishcloth, a neckwarmer -- lots of small knitted delights! Sandi Wiseheart, editor of *Knitting Daily* tells us, "We knit for joy, and anything done for joy is worth finding a way to do, no matter what the challenges. The more joy, the more solace, the more calm we can bring to this crazy world, the better". We'd love to hear your ideas for "one-skein wonders"...

*** PUNCH NEEDLE EMBROIDERY NEWS ***

New from HELEN'S TREASURES is "Wee Eggs" (\$18.00 kit , shown right), an original design by Helen Stetina. The kit includes pre-printed fabric and instructions to needle punch the eggs pictured -- zig-zag, stars and waves, plus a BONUS egg! Helen will also customize an asymmetrical heart ornament kit for you. These items are all currently on display, along with new spring items like STONE & THREAD "Cottontail" bunny. For information on classes or custom kits, please contact Helen via e-mail: guppy0613@comcast.net



*** OXFORD RUG PUNCH CLASSES WITH TRACEY EARHART ***

LEARN TO RUG PUNCH WITH OXFORD PUNCH NEEDLE Saturday, April 25, 2009; 3 hour class 9:30 am - 12:30 pm OR Saturday, May 30, 2009 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm; registration fee \$50.00; for ages 10 & up; with Certified Oxford Punch Needle Instructor Tracey Earhart

Class fee includes a 20" X 20" rug punch frame, monk's cloth for project, use of templates and instruction (yarn and Oxford rug punch needle are separate purchases). Create a chair pad or mat, using a selection of templates to create your own design. During class, students will select and purchase yarns of their choice to make a one-of-a-kind unique design.

Students will not complete the project during the allotted class time, but will have enough knowledge to comfortably and easily move forward on their own at home. Tracey is always willing to provide additional assistance and answer questions by telephone or -email. Additional class supplies needed -- notebook, pen/pencil and small sharp scissors. Students may e-mail instructor with any questions at halfmoonhollow@gmail.com

Special note: Students from these classes may stay and join The Punchettes for the evening hook-in.

PUNCHETTES HOOK-IN Saturday, April 25, 2009; 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Casual evening get-togethers to work on projects, share, learn, encourage and enjoy each other's company. Open to all previous students. There is no charge, but **YOU MUST CALL AHEAD** to sign up (724) 238-9320. If no one is signed up, Tracey will not be staying.

The TEDDY BEAR PICNIC – KIDS RUG PUNCH CLASSES COMING THIS SUMMER !

*** "BEAUTIFUL TEXTURES" RIBBED STOLE ***

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS: approx. 12" wide X 72" long

MATERIALS: NASHUA HANDKNITS "Creative Focus Silk" 7 balls (approx. 840 yards);
US size 6 knitting needles

OPTIONAL: purchase approx. 100 yards additional yarn for fringe, if desired

GAUGE: With US size 6 needles in pattern stitch, 21 sts / 28 rows = 4"

PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 10 + 1)

Row 1 (RS): slip 1 as if to purl; *P3, K3, P3, slip 1 as if to purl; repeat from * across.

Row 2: P1; *K3, P1, K1, P1, K3, P1; repeat from * across.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 for pattern.

With US size 6 & cable cast-on method, cast on 61 sts. Work in pattern stitch until piece measures 72" or desired length, end with row 1 of pattern stitch. Bind off all sts in rib pattern. Weave in ends. Add fringe (optional).

Abbreviations: K - knit; P - purl; sts - stitches

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***** READER'S KNIT CLUB *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Mondays, April 6, 2009, and May 4, 2009, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA...



***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evening, April 14, 2009, and May 12, 2009, from 7 - 9 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting & lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit!

***** FUN FRIDAYS, April 3, 2009, and May 8, 2009; 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff; rsvp (limited registration) *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor.

***** UPCOMING KNITTING CLASSES *****

"Beginner Knitting" with Tracey Earhart; Saturday, April 11, 2009, OR Saturday, May 30, 2009; 9:30 am - 12:00 noon; registration fee \$25.00*

Class supplies include US #7 or #8 needles & worsted weight yarn; class size limited to 4 students, ages 10 and up.

"Intermediate Knitting" with Tracey Earhart; Saturday, April 11, 2009, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; registration fee \$25.00*

Call for details about class supplies; class size limited to 4 students, ages 10 & up

"Mother-Daughter Learn to Knit" with Tracey Earhart; Saturday, May 9, 2009, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon; registration fee \$25.00*

Class supplies include US #7 or #8 needles & worsted weight yarn; class size limited to 4 students, ages 10 and up.

"Socks for Beginners" with Tracey Earhart; Saturday, May 9, 2009; 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm; registration fee \$25.00*

Students must have basic knitting skills; call for details about class supplies; class size limited to 6 students.

*Registration fee must be pre-paid at the time of registration to reserve a space in class. If you need to cancel, we will refund tuition up to 48 hours prior to the class. After that, we will refund half of the tuition in the form of a store credit. Unless noted, class fees do not include materials. Classes without a minimum of 4 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for inclement weather. Students may pre-register for classes by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathys-kreations.com

Private knitting, crochet, felting, punch needle and rug punch lessons available by appointment. It's our birthday month -- Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 29 years!

Don't let the warmer weather tempt you into putting your stitching away -- it's a perfect time to try out the new silk, linen, bamboo and organic cotton yarns! Have an enjoyable, stitch-filled spring~!
KEEP KNITTING! Kathy