



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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AUGUST 2009 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Wouldn't it be great if you could somehow capture all the colors of summer to enjoy later? Think about it -- fields full of bright sunflowers, lively Country Market veggies and blooms, or the deep blue of the sky. It's time to start projects that keep celebrating those wonderful summer shades all winter long.

This month, our inspiration comes from NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia" yarn and the book "Kristin Knits", authored by our friend and mentor Kristin Nicholas. We are pleased to host a trunk show of twenty beautiful projects by Kristin from August 5 through August 19 (new dates). From the Kaleidoscope Hat, Polka Dot Scarf and Fingerless Flower Gloves to the "Be Happy, Be Colorful Socks", we've got you covered from head to toe. Discover how to incorporate color into your knitting with wide or narrow stripes, surprising bobbles and fringes, or even basic embroidery stitches that lend playfulness to even the simplest patterns. These designs are expressly designed to showcase color in combination. Make your knitting and crocheting sing with warm, vibrant colors, or take inspiration to find your own color language.

Our don't-miss-it August events include weekend coupon sales, our first ever "yarn tasting", our "Design-A-Scarf" contest at the Westmoreland County Fair, the Woolly Garden Rug Punch & Needle Punch projects benefiting the area Food Bank, how-to classes for a fabulous Ruffled Scarf and Baby Surprise Jacket, the premiere of Kathy's Cable Workshop & Designer Spotlight DVD on Knitting Daily TV, and classes by Kathy on combining Lace and Cable Techniques. It's a very carefree, colorful month here, with one spectacular summer's end fiber promotion...

COOL OFF WITH COTTON
10% off all regularly-priced
100% cotton or cotton blend yarns in stock
during August 2009

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
12 noon - 4:00 pm Sundays through mid-October

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

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*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

How lucky knitters and crocheters are, to have a pasttime that brings us such tranquility and pleasure! Summer will soon start to drift away, and stitchers' thoughts will turn toward holiday gifting and the newest trends for fall. Here's what's new, what's now, what's happening -- the colors will delight your eyes and the fibers will dance through your fingers...

Knitscene Fall 2009 (\$7.99) is a knitter's issue with touches of crochet. The designs are fashion-forward, contemporary and spot-on with fall's latest looks and graphic elements -- simple, stylish and spirited. More importantly, the knitting is fabulous. And wearable. There are 29 must-make knits, including nifty cables (always our personal fave), alluring lace (yes, for fall and winter), unexpected directions and crisp textures. The essential silhouettes include casual but chic hoodies, vests, and scarves combining line, color, stitch and motif in bold ways. Kathy's caterpillar-stitch deep V-neck pullover is among the designs (shown upper left): "Deep 3X3 ribbing and a plunging mini-shawl collar provide a dramatic framework for this textured pullover. The stitch detail features an allover horizontal half-brioche caterpillar. Kathy chose a soft, drapey, worsted weight yarn with a hint of sparkle (Nashua Handknits 'Ivy')". We also love the rugby pocket scarf with pockets hanging on each front and a narrow ribbed "seaman's" style neck to reduce bulk. We also recommend the article on reading lace charts, a tutorial well worth the read...

Knit Simple Fall 2009 (\$6.99) answers the question on every knitter's mind, "What's the new hot accessory?" Here's a hint. The "neck's best thing" is smaller than you'd expect. It's the mini-scarf -- short, easy and sweet -- to knit up in a flash! While this season's scarves lack length, they have panache to spare. Many of the ideas in this issue are one-skein wonders. Cowl, scarflet, warmer, mobius, hood: whatever you call it, it takes just a little bit of yarn, so an impulse splurge won't break the bank. There are also great kids sweaters, wear-to-work cardies with plus sizing and the cutest little baby hat by Nicky Epstein using a variety of organic yarns. All in all, quite an impressive issue...

BERROCO "Sundae" (\$9.25, 100 grams, 62 yards, 50% wool / 50% acrylic, CYCA 6) comes in an array of gorgeous heather colors that define this super chunky wool blend for quick-knitting accessories and garments. We've already seen a few works in progress with this classic, instant gratification yarn, mainly for Tracey's Earhart's "Snowboarder Hats for Everyone" (Fiber Trends pattern AC91, \$5.95)...

Got milk? KOLLAGE YARNS "Dynamic Duo Reversible Fingerless Gloves" (\$5.50, #3348, shown lower right) is our "poster project" for the upcoming yarn tasting. Worked with just one hank of "1/2 N 1/2" yarn (\$17.95, 50 grams, 174 yards, 50% milk / 50% wool, CYCA 3), this is quickly becoming our fastest-selling new yarn. Come to our yarn tasting and receive a free KOLLAGE pattern with your purchase of "1/2 N 1/2". Another new KOLLAGE arrival is our favorite for fall: "Fantastic", which truly lives up to its name (\$8.95, 50 grams, 93 yards, 100% merino wool, CYCA yarn classification 4, Aran weight). Kathy is delighted that several of her designs will be published in upcoming special collections for KOLLAGE YARNS -- stay tuned for updates on the availability of patterns...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO's "Sideways Rainbows Jacket & Vest #1370" (\$4.50, shown at right) looks great in either version. Check out our model garment knit by Nancy Premoshis in beautiful NORO "Taiyo" (\$18.50, 100 grams, 220 yards, 40% cotton / 30% silk / 15% wool / 15% nylon, CYCA 4). Nancy will be teaching the vest class on August 22. A bevy of new patterns from K1, C2 have arrived (\$4.50 each), and most of these garments have extended plus sizing...



© 2009 Knit One,
Crochet Too

Think there is nothing new to learn about sock knitting? Not so -- everything old is new again! Coming later this month from LISA KNITS are knitter-friendly "Boomerang Socks" patterns (\$4.00 each) and we are the first to have 'em! Lisa Carnahan has designed cuff down and toe-up versions in two different gauges (fingering and DK). Lisa adapted a traditional, "old" German method for heel shaping, updating it for today's knitters. We will be offering classes by Lisa on this innovative technique, later this fall. New in our sock station are self-stripping TREKKING "Hand Art" (\$20.50, 100 grams, 459 yards, 75% superwash wool / 25% polyamid, CYCA 2) and glorious marl striped "Maxima" (\$17.95, 100 grams, 459 yards, 75% wool / 25% nylon, CYCA 2)...

Looking for classic knits for all ages? BERROCO "Family Comfort #284" (\$8.95) features Aran, Fair Isle and circular sweaters in child's 2 to adult XL, plus baby layettes and accessories for fall. If you are looking for the perfect hat for any head or a great project for charity knitting, check out KALAMAZOO KNITS "Spiral Snuggler for the Family Pattern #4" (\$6.50) for worsted weight yarns...

Created from a luxurious mix of fibers, BERROCO "Seduce" (\$8.95, 40 grams, 100 yards; 47% rayon / 25% linen / 17% silk / 11% nylon, CYCA 4) was named for the immediate knitterly attraction that you will feel for this corded strand of color. You can make a light and easy, season-spanning garment in a breathable fabric that's practically weightless and cool to the touch...

We've been waiting since TNNA to bring you LOUET YARNS and they're here at last. We are pleased to introduce machine washable, sport weight "Euroflax" (\$23.95, 100 grams, 270 yards, 100% wet spun linen, CYCA 2). Pattern support (\$5.95 each) includes the lovely "Hysope" (shown lower left), an elegant, sophisticated openwork cardigan with your choice of two different sleeve lengths and the "Sasha Skirt", a fun, ruffled skirt with a knit-in waistband casing and underskirt where stitches are picked up to knit the contrasting ruffles...

For those who prefer circular needles to dpns for sock knitting, CLOVER introduces short 9" lengths and has extended its line to include US sizes 0, 1, and 2 in all lengths. Of course, we've got 'em in stock...



And, last but not least, Kathy's pick for most distinctive fall yarn, ROWAN YARNS "Lima", the most unique fiber we encountered at the TNNA market (\$12.95, 50 grams, 109 yards, 84% baby alpaca. 8% merino wool / 8% nylon, CYCA 4). This buttery soft worsted weight baby alpaca blend comes in a beautiful palette of heatherized colors. The construction of the yarn is basically a two-stitch I-cord which traps air, while keeping it lightweight and lofty, yet maintains its elasticity. Sample it out at our yarn tasting...

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North America



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELF ***

INTERWEAVE PESS presents *Knitted Gifts* by Ann Budd (\$21.95, softcover) featuring irresistible projects to make and give. This book focuses on smaller projects that can be created in a relatively short period of time, which is perfect for those last-minute gifts. Projects range from easy-to-knit to more involved -- an ideal book for knitters of all skill levels.

We are pleased that one of Kathy's designs is included in this classic collection: The Curry & Spice Hat & Scarf (shown upper left). About this design, editor Ann Budd says, "For this hat and scarf set, Kathy Zimmerman used a quick and easy variation of the blackberry stitch in a soft and inviting self-striping yarn. The stitch pattern involves complimentary increases and decreases that result in a non-curling textured fabric that looks good on both sides -- just right for a simple scarf. The matching hat is worked back and forth in rows and seamed along the center back".

We've got so many favorites in this book, and customers have already vowed to work their way through it, making every project. Cute quickies include a coffee clutch cup sleeve for take-out coffee, texter's mitts with removable thumb flaps, a ruffled bottle sleeve to fancy up a gift of wine, his & hers socks, a felted yarn caddy, and a sugar & spice blanket. This book is a real keeper with some very clever ideas...

Twenty contemporary, stunningly beautiful projects from the book *Kristin Knits* (\$24.95, hard cover), written by Kristin Nicholas, will be showcased here from **Wednesday, August 5, 2009, through Wednesday, August 19, 2009**. Personally autographed bookplates will be available with the purchase of the book (quantities limited). All projects are worked with warm, vibrant shades of our lovely NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia" yarn (\$7.95, 50 grams, 93 yards, 50% merino / 25% alpaca / 25% kid mohair, yarn classification 4). If you are confident with your knitting needles, but still feel a little unsure about improvising with color, take inspiration from these charming, imaginative handknit garments. Knitting has never been so colorful!

*** DESIGN YOUR OWN SCARF CONTEST ***

It is our pleasure once again to sponsor the 2009 Westmoreland County Fair "Design Your Own Scarf". This year's theme is "natural fiber" -- scarves must be an original design, using 100% natural (animal or plant) yarns. Be sure to visit the Fair August 21 - 29, 2009...

*** KNIT FOR THE CURE ***

As an event sponsor, Kathy and shopgal Marilee were invited to the Press Conference for the 2009 Westmoreland County Fair. During the luncheon, it was our pleasure to meet Michelle Brokenbek, a freelance feature writer for *Westmoreland Magazine*. We were discussing our annual Knit For The Cure Project, which began with our sponsorship of the County Fair scarf contest, and has grown into a collection of patterns, with profits from pattern sales benefitting a variety of causes. Michelle brought our attention to the disease that whispers, ovarian cancer. As a result, with the help of our designer friend Susan Shabo, Kathy's Kreations will add Susan's design, "The 'Not So Lacy' Lace Scarf" to our Collection, to raise awareness and promote education about ovarian cancer. Her scarf, made from a beautiful teal shade of MANOS "Silk-Blend", is currently on display in honor of Michelle Brokenbek (who incidentally is an ovarian cancer survivor), and has inspired us to plan a window in teal shades for Fort Ligonier Days...

*** KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS ***

Do you enjoy making hats for "Caps For Kids" or similar charity knitting / crocheting? If you use small balls of "stash" yarn for stripes or slip stitch patterns, decide the order in which you wish to place the colors, then "skewer" them onto a spare knitting needle to keep them in the order you want. Simply slip off the next color when ready and keep working away...
from Betty Lapp; KnitNet 7/15/09

If you are working on a garter stitch project and have a problem keeping track of the right and wrong sides, use two different colors or types of knitting needles. Use one of each color / type. Color one is the right side and color two is the wrong side...
from Pauline Angione; KnitNet 7/15/09

When selecting a yarn for knitting lace, avoid firm, tightly spun yarn (like certain sock yarns). Choose mohair, silk, alpaca, or merino wool with a looser twist for a delicate appearance for openwork projects like shawls and scarves... fom Shanta Moitra

If you are modifying a pattern, write down your changes. You may decide later to duplicate the same garment. If you do not write it down, you will not remember what you did.
Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild

For an easy bobble, work K1, P1, K1, P1, K1 into one stitch on the right side (public side) of your work, then purl these 5 stitches together on the wrong side of the work.
Ann E. Smith, designer

*** STOCKINETTE FINGERLESS MITTENS ***

SIZE: Ladies' medium, one size fits all

MATERIALS: CLASSIC ELITE "Montera" 2 hanks (approx. 150 yards light bulky weight yarn, CYCA yarn classification 4), double-pointed knitting needles (dpns), US #8 & #9; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: approx. 4 sts / 6 rows = 1" in stockinette stitch, with US size 9 needles

DIRECTIONS: With smaller dpns, cast on 30 sts. Join, place marker (pm), being careful not to twist work. Work K1, P1 ribbing in rounds for 3". Change to larger dpns and knit 5 rounds.

Begin thumb gusset: K 14 sts, pm; inc 1 st in each of next 2 sts, pm, K remaining 14 sts. Knit 1 round.

Round 1: K to first marker, slip marker & increase in next st, knit to 1 st before 2nd marker, increase in next stitch, slip marker, K to end.

Round 2: Knit around without increasing.

Repeat rounds 1 & 2, inc 2 sts between markers every other round as established until there are 14 sts between markers, end with round 2.

Thumb: Working on 14 sts between markers ONLY, knit in rounds for 1". Work in K1, P1 rib for 2 rounds. Bind off all sts. Cut tail and sew thumb.

Hand: K across 14 sts, pick up 2 sts at base of thumb, knit to end. K all rounds on 30 sts until piece measures 4" or desired length above cuff. Work in rounds of K1, P1 for 2". Bind off all sts in rib pattern.

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*** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW ***

Jane B asks, "How can I get fringe to be the same length? I love fringe on a scarf, but can't get it to look even." Try cutting out a template made from a cardboard box or poster board, slightly more than half the measurement of the desired length of fringe (the knot in the fringe will use up a bit more of the length). Wrap yarn around this template many times, being careful not to pull too tightly and stretch it. Cut the yarn along the edge where you began winding. This should help you to make perfect fringe every time, Jane...

*** KNITTER'S DAY OUT 2009 ***

Knitter's Day Out is a one-day, one-evening event in the Harrisburg, PA area with the goal of promoting knitting. The 24th annual KDO 2009 will be held on Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26, 2009 at the Central Pennsylvania College. We are pleased that Kathy is one of the "headliner" guest teachers on Saturday. She will be teaching two three-hour classes -- one on slip-stitch colorplay and one on cables, featuring an original scarf design.

*** KNITTREAT ***

Immerse yourself in a fall weekend fiber retreat at the Summit Inn in Uniontown, in the beautiful Laurel Highlands on November 5 - 8, 2009. Kathy will be teaching an original design, "The Summit Shawl", a seed stitch mohair shawl worked in your choice of edgings -- ruffle, frill, or scallop. For information, contact Barb at (412) 963- 7030.

*** KATHY'S NEW RAVELRY GROUP ***

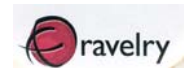
Here's a quick cybernote from shopgal Jen Ferrence (thanks, Jen!):

"Are you a 'Raveler?' The website ravelry.com is a great resource for any slightly internet savvy knitter. To name just a few of the site's many features, you can use it to organize your knitting life, find project ideas for that yarn you just bought, and search other Ravelers' finished projects to see all of the different yarns that have been used for that shawl pattern you are about to start. You can also join different 'groups' that are formed based on common interests and circumstances. For example, one of the groups I belong to is for people who had a baby in March 2009. If you are already a member, please join the group 'We Love Kathy's' for some online conversations with others who love shopping at our local yarn hangout! Recent topics of conversation include 'What are you Knitting?' and 'What do you love about Kathy's?' If you would like to begin a Ravelry account, simply:

- 1.) Go to www.ravelry.com
- 2.) Click on "create a Ravelry account," at the top of the page.
- 3.) Type your e-mail address in the text box and click on the button reading "send a sign-up link"
- 4.) Check your e-mail as you normally do-- you will soon receive a message from invitations@ravelry.com! (Note: If you have SPAM filters, be sure to allow your mailbox to receive messages from this sender ahead of time)
- 5.) Follow the directions in the e-mail to create your username and password. Keep in mind that others on Ravelry will know you nearly exclusively by your username, so you may want to choose something other than your first and last name.

Have fun exploring the site! My username is 'Tricotlore,' so feel free to look me up and ask me questions about navigating the various features on Ravelry."

P.S. Kathy's user name is "queencable" and there is also a "Kathy Zimmerman" group for knitters who enjoy working her designs...





*** WHAT'S A YARN TASTING? ***

Please join us on Friday, August 14, 2009, 9 am - 9 pm (the evening of "The Stroll" in Ligonier), and Saturday, August 15, 2009, 9 am - 5 pm for our first-ever "yarn tasting". Be among the first knitters and crocheters in the area to get your hands on the latest new yarns for fall. We will have over 150 yarns for you to sample -- select a few that interest you, perhaps a fiber that you've never tried, or something that you can't wait to see how it looks when knit or crocheted. Please bring a couple sizes of knitting needles or crochet hooks (US 8 knitting needles or US size G crochet hook will be fine), swatch a bit to feel how they work up, concentrate on the textures, and prepared to be "wow-ed" with the results.

We will also have "condiments" and "knitter's eye candy" courtesy of Lantern Moon -- a display of needle cases, exotic wooden needles, Baaabs sheep scissors caddy, shawl pins and more. We think you'll fall in love with the fabulous fibers and accessories for the stitching season ahead. There is no charge for this event, but please rsvp by calling us at (724) 238-9320 or e-mailing kathy@kathys-kreations.com as supplies and space are limited. A big "thank you" to our suppliers for yarn samples -- Kollage Yarns, Classic Elite Yarns, Nashua Handknits, Rowan Yarns, Kraemer Yarns and Skacel Collection. As if the yarn wasn't enough, there will be light snacks and door prizes!

*** BIG BUTTON EVENT ***

By popular demand, the Button Lady is coming back! Eileen Petre of Bull's Eye Buttons will be here on Saturday, September 12, 2009, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. Eileen specializes in handcrafted polymer clay buttons in a variety of techniques from millefiori to faux-marble. Bring your projects in need of closure ideas to Eileen, who will help you to find the perfect button. In addition, she will have polymer clay & felted bead jewelry and knitting needles with bead tops. Please check out our LISA KNITS "Quick & Cozy" neck warmer model garments embellished with samples of Eileen's button artistry...

*** PUNCH PROJECTS TO BENEFIT AREA FOOD BANK ***

Thanks to everyone who participated and supported "The Woolley Garden Rug" project recently hosted by Tracey Earhart, the area's only Certified Oxford Rug Punch Instructor. The rug will be on display at Kathy's Kreations during the first week of August, at the Westmoreland County Courthouse during the 2nd week of August, then returning to Kathy's Kreations for the remainder of the month. For every \$10 donation that you make to the Westmoreland County Food Bank, we will enter your name into a drawing for the rug that will be held Saturday, September 5, 2009, when a Food Bank representative will be on hand to draw the winning entry. The "Woolly Garden Rug" will help provide food for many families.

Fiberartist Helen Stetina has designed an original punchneedle pillow top, "Patti's Rainbow" with a flower garden theme, also to be on display at Kathy's throughout August. For every \$5 donation that you make to the Westmoreland County Food Bank, we will enter your name into a drawing for the pillow, also planned for September 5, 2009. ALL of the proceeds from the rug & pillow will go to the Food Bank. Patterns for Helen's design will be available later this fall, with a portion of the proceeds continuing to benefit the Food Bank.

Kathy's Kreations is also having a non-perishable fruit and veggie drive (to continue the theme of the rug and pillow) now through Labor Day. We will be collecting canned goods, dried fruits / veggies or juice. You may drop off your donation during business hours. There is also a basket of vintage pattern booklets which have been donated -- the patterns are free with a donation to the Food Bank "piggy banks"...



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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Mondays, August 3, 2009, and September 14, 2009 (note: this will be the 2nd Monday because of Labor Day holiday) from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA...

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, August 11, 2009, and September 8, 2009, from 7 - 9 pm (rsvp please) *****

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

***** FUN FRIDAYS, August 14, 2009, and September 11, 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 for projects purchased here. 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 CLASSES *****

"Baby Surprise Jacket" with Nancy Premoshis; Saturday, August 22, 2009; 9:30 am - 12:30 noon; registration fee \$25.00* (includes pattern) plus supplies

"Sideways Seed Stitch Vest" with Nancy Premoshis; Saturday, August 22, 2009; 1:00 pm - 4:00 noon; registration fee \$25.00* (includes pattern) plus supplies

"Combining Lace with Cables" with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; Saturday, August 29, 2009; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm featuring the pattern stitches from the "Lace Style" Katherine Hepburn Cardigan (Designer Spotlight demo for Knitting Daily TV); registration fee \$25.00

"Short Row Garter Stitch Socks" with instructor Shanta Moitra (shown upper left); Saturday, September 26, 2009, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; registration fee \$15.00 plus supplies

Classes coming later this fall: "Tiny Treasure Bags" with Jennifer Ferrence; "Holiday gifts that Kids Can Knit" with Jennifer Ferrence; Introduction to Oxford Rug Punch, Intermediate Oxford Rug Punch and Designer Rug Punch with certified instructor Tracey Earhart

*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. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 29 years!

When you start with good materials and add your unique creative vision, the end result is bound to be inspiring. Seasons change, but great style, quality and value remain constants. Stop by our shop to find inspired design, a friendly & knowledgeable staff, and the kind of quality products that withstand the test of time. KEEP KNITTING! Kathy