



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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DECEMBER 2006



Dear Knitters,

Welcome to a celebration of the knitting season, where we are "idea central"! As knitters and crocheters, we take pride in making beautiful holiday presents by hand for those we love, according to time-honored tradition. Our creations are the result of a precise, hands-on process that begins with simple fiber, which we skillfully craft with our needles and hooks into unique one-of-a kind works of art. As we create, we think of the recipient with every stitch and row, also gifting our time, effort and love as well.

At Kathy's Kreations, we offer a large selection of engaging projects to make as gifts -- from sweaters to toys, scarves to socks, bags to hats. As you work them, we hope that they will provide a peaceful getaway from the holiday bustle, time for you to unwind, collect your thoughts, relax, and find creative satisfaction...

**"Tis the season to be knitting! "
DECEMBER IS TWEED MONTH
All regularly-priced tweed* yarns in stock
are 10% off during December 2006
(yarn name includes the word "tweed" on the label)**

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
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Telephone 724-238-9320

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please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



***** GREAT NEW STUFF *****

Winter 2006 fashion offers glamour, sophistication and a feminine take on knits. Minimal sophistication and streamlined styling keeps lines simple. Color palettes range from neutrals to dramatic jewel tones. Layered looks with wide belts emphasize the waistline on oversized sweaters and leggings are everywhere. Feminine lace wraps are making a huge fashion statement. Here are some of the latest products now on our shelves to help you warm up for winter and keep you fashion-forward...

INTERWEAVE KNITS Winter 2006 (\$6.99) features 22 projects to ignite your needles. There is a rich play of color and texture in the featured designs -- from Fair Isle to cables, refined raglans to structured jackets, velvety tunics to simple cardies, thrummed mittens to holiday stockings. We were enthralled by the Cabled Swing Cardigan and the Arctic Diamonds Lace Stole (shown upper left). There is also an excellent article on working, cutting and reinforcing steeks in Fair Isle designs...

VOGUE KNITTING presents Winter 2006/07 *knit.1* magazine (\$5.99), the "Love" issue. Love rules in this veritable yarn lovefest, which finds editor Adina Klein knitting with Dr. Ruth (you gotta see the editorial photo). At knit.1, they've never met a ball of yarn they didn't like, and there are heart patterns everywhere in this issue. We are pleased that Kathy's men's henley pullover is featured in the "His and Hers" feature (see lower right). About this design, VOGUE says, "Get him collared in a flash. Kathy Zimmerman's polo sweater in 'Handspun Semi-Solids' by MANOS couldn't be simpler: The fanciest stitch is a K3, P3 rib at the collar and edges, the trickiest trick is a supereasy basic placket. Square armholes make for a no-fuss finishing". Also featured is Lisa Carnahan's girl's broken heart seed stitch sweater which mends at the jagged little button band. These knits rock...

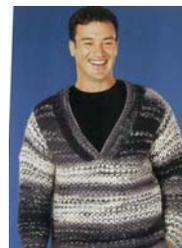
Kathy, Lisa and Betty Lou recently attended the Stitches East Conference in Baltimore. One of their yarn "finds" is COLINETTE "Jitterbug" (\$21.00, 100 grams, 289 yards, easy care 100% merino wool). This is the ultimate in hand-dyed 4-ply fingering yarn, perfect for shawls and socks. One skein makes a pair of socks and a free sock pattern is included on every label! We've already have multiple reorders from customers who have tried this wonderful new sock yarn, and the COLINETTE colorways are amazing...

Last month, we introduced COLINETTE "Cadenza" (\$9.95, 50 grams, 128 yards, 100% DK weight superwash merino wool) and the delicate "Parisienne" (\$13.50, 25 grams, 238 yards, luxury kid mohair). Pattern support has arrived, with basic patterns showcasing the beauty of these hand-painted yarns. The "Cadenza" book features pullovers and cardigans for men & women (\$7.50) and "Parisienne" (\$17.95) is an elegant collection of wraps, shrugs, and sweaters that look like they just stepped off the Champs Elyseese. A beautiful shrug in COLINETTE "Parisienne" and "Tao" (\$26.95, 50 grams, 126 yards, 100% silk) appears in the February 2007 KNIT 'n STYLE magazine. This is a very easy knit, worked sideways, and the stitch pattern appears like a "squiggle" knit since it alternates the thin, lightweight "Parisienne" with the luscious "Tao" in basic garter stitch (beginner-easy elegance)...



***** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF *****

KNIT 'n STYLE February 2007 (\$5.99) is chock full of sweaters for the entire family. We are pleased that Kathy's Men's Unikat Pullover (shown right) is included, designed with SKACEL COLLECTION "Unikat" (\$27.50, 100 grams, 176 yards, 100% merino wool). This is a slip-stitch textured pullover with a classic V-neckline, and the "Unikat" is a dream to knit. Another design to check out is the sideways rainbow vest from KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO, knit from "Paintbox" yarn. There are some classy sweaters in this issue and a great article on bindoffs, which makes this issue worth the read...



Searching for great-looking men's sweater patterns? Check out our selection of MADDY LAINE patterns. The latest to arrive is "Men's Casual Comfort" ML-140 (\$5.50), an easy, wide rib traditional V-neck cardigan with drop shoulders, handy pockets, worked with worsted weight yarn. Directions are given for four sizes...

Attention, felted knitting fans! New from CLOVER are double-pointed needles in larger sizes US 11, 13, & 15 (\$15.50, set of five). There is still time to get those big-needle knits done in a jiffy for the holidays (you can do it!)...

Sock knitting, which has always been popular with our customers, is enjoying a resurgence. We have just received shipments of new colorways in AUSTERMANN "Step" (\$18.50, 100 grams, 459 yards; the fabulous yarn infused with aloe vera and jojoba oil), and TREKKING XXL (\$14.50, 100 grams, 459 yards; self-striping random print). Both yarns are 75% superwash wool / 25% nylon, easy care machine washable. We've had many inquiries from our sock knitters about bamboo yarns, and we are pleased to introduce TREKKING "Pro Natura" (\$18.50, 100 grams, 459 yards, 75% new wool / 25% bamboo). This fingering weight bamboo blend sock yarn comes in subtle, random self-striping colorways. Serious sock knitters will want to get their hands on some of this wonderful new "feel-good" yarn...

Did you know that we stock over two dozen different types of purse handles from CLOVER, CRYSTAL PALACE, CRAFT DESIGNER and MJ TRIMMINGS? These range in styles, including U-shaped, leather look, bamboo, plastic in clear and colors, round rings, beaded, and wood tones (prices vary from \$7.50 to \$14.95 each)...

Get fresh with your fibers! "Soak" is a pure, gentle and deliciously scented way to wash the delicate items you care about most. This innovative product, -- which is biodegradable, rinse-free (a plus for washing felted items), phosphate-free and gentle on fibers and hands -- is ideal for washing everything from chunky wool hats to the most delicate cashmere sweaters. There are three fragrances -- aquae (elemental), flora and citrus, each leaving a hint of freshness after laundering with no overwhelming perfume smell. Check out our display for the following items, which also make great holiday stocking stuffers: full-size bottles (\$16.00, 14 oz, 80+ washes, shown lower left); starter kit (\$29.00, sample all the scents with three 4 oz. bottles, one of each scent; 24+ washes with each bottle); and mini-soak (\$1.95, 10 ml; great for travel or sampling; include one with all your handmade gifts; 2+ washes)...





***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES *****

Books make great gifts, offering the potential for countless hours of creative inspiration. We have a large collection to satisfy the deepest cravings of the yarn-obsessed, including introductory, reference, how-to and "coffee-table" books with pretty patterns. Here are our picks of the season:

Victorian Lace Today (\$29.95, hardcover, shown upper left) transforms sketchy instructions from the world's first knitting books into exciting, modern-day accessories. They are easy lace to wear, and easy lace to knit today's way, with clear instructions in the yarns and colors you love. Forty patterns and comprehensive information on the tools and techniques of lace knitting guide the beginner, challenge the experienced, and inspire the ambitious. Along with a stunning collection of shawls and capes, you'll find eleven wide-bordered scarves, as well as a complete guide to borders, blocking, even building your own accessories. Lisa and Kathy recently attended a fashion show of these outstanding designs by Jane Sowerby at Stitches East and found them to be truly breathtaking, finding it hard to pick just one favorite...

You'll be on pins and needles throughout the year with the 2007 Knitting Pattern-A-Day 2007 Calendar (\$13.99). Every day features a knitted piece from the craftiest in the trade. Enjoy daily photographs of fun and beautiful creations accompanied by associated patterns and measurements. You'll never be without the perfect handmade gift... from cozy scarves and sweaters to groovy bags and hats, create hundreds of knitted novelties and discover the newest techniques and materials along the way...

Anyone who has a pet knows that they are important members of their families, deserving of handmade gifts, too! VOGUE KNITTING ON THE GO series, *Knits For Pets* (\$12.95, hardcover) features an abundance of delightfully playful knits for your lovable furry friend, along with an assortment of cat-and-dog themed knits that make perfect gifts for the young people and animal lovers in your life (a puppy purse, dog-eared droopy knit hat). There are interactive projects for your dog or cat (you knit them, they munch on them or go crazy with their paws). Your canine or feline companion will appreciate stylishly fun creations including a super-soft cat collar, cozy beds, and several sweaters to keep the cold at bay...

Also new in this series is VOGUE KNITTING ON THE GO *Crocheted Hats* (\$12.95, hardcover). Thanks to the availability of gorgeous new yarns in unique textures and vivid colors, stitching a hat doesn't have to be just a practical way to keep your head warm. A fun hat can make an outfit "pop", dressing it up or down, transforming it from forgettable to fabulous, or simply providing the perfect finishing touch. And with a prominent place atop your head, they're the perfect way to flaunt your personal style. Equal parts function and fashion, this collection has something for every person and personality, with hip, fresh designs that breathe new life into classic looks and translate the latest styles into easy-to-follow patterns. Try the beanie or mesh cap for a contemporary look, or go vintage with the mini-ruffle pillbox or feminine mohair flower cloche. Whether you're a veteran crocheter or a newbie, you'll find something to suit your skill level. The best part is that these projects work up quickly and are small enough to take along with you anywhere...

***** MORE STUFF FROM OUR BOOKSHELVES *****

More than four million babies are born in America every year, and not a single one of them comes with a hat! *Itty-Bitty Hats* (\$17.95, spiral bound, shown lower right) features three dozen adorable patterns to cover little heads in love and warmth. There are hip and stylish designs for babies and toddlers, boys and girls, topped with fruits and flowers, squiggles and swirls. For knitters of all skill levels, this book is a great introduction to knitting in the round and the perfect guide to creating gifts for beautiful babies everywhere...

Never have knitting and crochet paired so well as in Candi Jensen's *Knitting Loves Crochet* (\$18.95, softcover). These charming projects are designed to highlight everything you love about each craft in this love affair with stitches. Sweet clusters of cherries gather on a child's cardigan, sueded granny squares add panache to Fido's sweater, and whimsical crocheted flowers put just the right flair in hats, scarves, bags and pillows. Put your knitting needles and your favorite hook to work stitching up possibilities you never knew existed...

In *Knit A Fantasy Story* (\$25.95, softcover), Jan Messent shows how, using only oddments of wool, the minimum of materials and a little imagination, you can create an enchanted land and people it with fairy folk, a handsome prince and mythical creatures. This book will delight the young at heart and anyone with a sense of fantasy and fun...

Make a difference with *Knitting For Peace* (\$19.95, hardcover), and make the world a better place one stitch at a time. Read about knitters (even kids!) who knit for the needy worldwide. Learn how to join a charity knitting program, such as chemo hats or a prayer shawl ministry, or start your own. There are 15 patterns included for socks, hats, afghans, shawls and more, along with information on charity organizations Project Linus, Caps For Kids and more. We at Kathy's Kreations can refer you to local groups in this area...

Men knit ... and have for centuries. Soldiers, cowboys, and sailors traditionally knitted their own garments and today's men are following suit. Don't let society squelch the truth about men and knitting any longer! You can join the uprising of male knitters, even if you've never touched a pair of needles. Featuring classic men's designs with an edgy twist, *Knitting With Balls: A Hands-on Guide for the Modern Man*, (\$20.00, softcover), Michael del Vecchio's bold new guide will show you all the basics a guy needs to teach himself how to knit, alter and design patterns. This book will inspire you with its witty, modern approach to men's knitting. It's the perfect guide for the female yarn enthusiast, in search of a cool gift for her guy, or for members of the growing band of male knitters...

Suitable for adventurous beginners and other knitters, *Knitorama* (\$16.95, softcover) by Rachael Matthews will help you realize your creative potential and encourage you to knit what you want! Among the outrageously clever knitting projects are knitted cupcakes, fried-egg earwarmers, knitting covers for stereo speakers; yarn veggies; and shoelaces -- this book is a hoot!



***** HOW CUTE ARE THESE CAPS? *****

Vikki Roth stopped by with the two hats pictured on this page. Our thanks to her for sharing her ideas. We've adapted them to quick-knitting caps that are beginner easy.



SNOWMAN HAT

SIZES: Babies' (toddler - child's medium in parentheses)

FINISHED HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: 16" (18" - 20.5")

MATERIALS: PLYMOUTH "Encore Chunky" one ball white (MC) and 25 yards blue (CC) for ribbing; US sizes 8 & 10 16" circular knitting needle; US size 10 double-pointed knitting needles (dpns); tapestry needle for weaving in ends; two small buttons or one yard black yarn for eyes; orange craft felt; orange sewing thread & needle to attach nose; stitch marker (Vikki felted a square of orange wool & cut it for the nose)

GAUGE: 3.5 sts / 5 rows = 1"

DIRECTIONS: With smaller circular knitting needle & CC, cast on 56 (64 - 72) sts. Join, place marker, being careful not to twist sts. Work in rounds of K2, P2 ribbing for 1" (1.25" - 1.5"). Cut CC. Join MC. Work in stockinette stitch (K every round) until piece measures 3.5" (4" - 4.5") from beginning.

Shape crown (change to dpns when there are too few sts to work comfortably):

Round 1: *K6, K2tog (knit 2 sts together); repeat from * around: 49 (56 - 63) sts.

Rounds 2, 4, 6, 8, & 10: K.

Round 3: *K5, K2tog; repeat from * around: 42 (48 - 54) sts.

Round 5: *K4, K2tog; repeat from * around: 35 (40 - 45) sts.

Round 7: *K3, K2tog; repeat from * around: 28 (32 - 36) sts.

Round 9: *K2, K2tog; repeat from * around: 21 (24 - 27) sts.

Round 11: *K1, K2tog; repeat from * around: 14 (16 - 18) sts.

Round 12: *K2tog; rep from * around: 7 (8 - 9) sts.

Cut yarn, leaving a 6" tail. Draw yarn through remaining sts. Pull up tightly to secure. Weave in ends. Sew buttons in place as shown for child's version, embroider yarn "eyes" for babies' & toddlers. For nose, cut a triangular shaped piece 1" wide at the base and 2" along each side of triangle. Sew into place as shown in photo.

GIRL'S TIE HAT (same sizes & gauge as above)

MATERIALS: PLYMOUTH "Encore Chunky" one ball white (MC) and 25 yards pink (CC) for ribbing; US size 10 16" circular knitting needle; US size 10 double-pointed knitting needles (dpns); tapestry needle for weaving in ends; stitch marker

GAUGE: 3.5 sts / 5 rows = 1"

DIRECTIONS: With US 10 circular knitting needle & CC, cast on 56 (64 - 72) sts. Join, being careful not to twist sts. Work in stockinette stitch (K every round) until piece measures 2" from beginning.

Eyelet round: *K2, yarn over (yo), K2tog; rep from * around.

Work in CC yarn for 1" more, cut yarn & join MC. Cont in stockinette stitch (knit every round) until piece measures 3.5" (4" - 4.5") from beginning. Work crown shaping same as snowman hat. Cut yarn, leaving a 6" tail. Draw yarn through remaining sts.

Pull up tightly to secure. Weave in ends. Make crochet or knitted I-cord from MC 24" (26" - 28") long & weave through eyelets. Tie in bow.



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***** THANKSGIVING OPEN HOUSE *****

Thanks to all who attended this fun holiday kick-off event. Congratulations to the winners of our Thanksgiving Open House door prize drawing:

1st Place: Laura Heitzer -- choice of book from our bookshelves (Laura selected XRX's "The Knitter's Handbook")

2nd Place: Marian Beckiary -- choice of any knitting needles or crochet hook

3rd Place: Laura Polliard -- 2007 Knitting Pattern-A-Day Calendar

***** KNITTING TIPS, HINTS, TRIVIA & TRENDS *****

Did you know that the girth of your wrist is one-half the girth of your neck? The length from fingertip to fingertip with your arms outstretched is about the same as your height? Your hand is as long as your face? This bit of trivia is shared by Karen McCullough (thanks, Karen), with credit to "Knit Bits Calendar 2006" and original source "Knit Mittens" by Robin Hansen. A practical application of this information is to knit or crochet your scarf so that it extends from fingertip to fingertip. This length will allow you to wrap it around your neck once and it will appear proportionate...

Having trouble finding the start of that fuzzy boutique ball of novelty yarn? Kathy recommends that you grasp the yarn ball firmly in the center and shake it once with a flick of your wrist. The unwieldy end should come loose. Remember to keep a firm grip on the ball, though, or you may shake off more yarn than intended...

Kelly Gradishek recommends always keeping "Post-It" notes in your knitting bag. She uses them to keep her place when working a pattern or on a stitch / colorwork chart. They are also handy for noting pattern changes or any other thought or idea. Thanks, Kelly!

A tip learned from Barry Klein at his Stitches East "Fit & Style" class: What if the given finished chest measurement size in a pattern isn't quite right? Sometimes changing the needle size up or down may alter fit just enough to give you the measurement needed. ALWAYS take an accurate gauge measurement and do the math to make the necessary adjustments.

If working sweaters with novelty or highly textured yarns in a simple pattern stitch, a better fit may be obtained if you drop down one needle for a few inches at the waist line. Or, waist shaping may also be achieved by working 1/2" - 1" worth of decreases at the side edge, one or two stitches from the side edge. This shaping should take place over the middle 1/3 of the lower section of the body. Barry also said that the latest fashion trends for the upcoming season are split collars for women's pullovers and side slits at the lower edge of men's sweaters for comfort and easier movement...

A tip Kathy learned from Laura Bryant at her Stitches East "Fringe, Tassels & Embellishments" class: When making fringe, wrap the yarn around a book widthwise as many times as needed. Cut the yarn along the open part of the book (in the groove of the side with the pages). Laura also finds it helpful to hang the fringed item over the edge of an ironing board to trim evenly...

Another reason to do a swatch: pick up stitches along the edge to test ribbing gauge and pick-up ratio...



***** **READER'S KNIT NIGHT** *****

Join Kathy and Tracey for an evening of knitting on **Monday, January 8, 2007, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. The evening will feature knitting-related novels, interesting reads and fun knitting with fiber-loving friends. There will be no meeting in December due to the holidays...



***** **SKILL BUILDING AND CLASSES** *****

"Knit Knite" at Kathy's Kreations: Tuesday evenings, December 12, 2006, and January 9, 2007, from 7 - 9 pm

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting, lots of fun conversation and plenty of advice from experienced knitters. All skill levels welcome -- come, sit & knit! It's free!

Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.

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

Please join us for the annual town-wide Ligonier Valley Merchants' Christmas Open House **Sunday, December 3, 2006**, from 12 noon - 5 pm. In addition to complimentary snacks, each customer will receive a free gift as our "thank you" for your patronage (one per customer, please).

**** FREE 2-HOUR ON-STREET PARKING IN LIGONIER EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL CHRISTMAS ****

The Ligonier Valley Historical Society Festival of Lights will be held at the Ligonier Valley Library Gallery from **December 2 - 10, 2006**, 12 noon - 7pm daily. The general public is cordially invited. Our wreath, "A Heart-Felt Christmas", featuring felted pointsettias, was designed by Nancy Caldwell and inspired by the work of Nicky Epstein. Thanks, Nancy -- good job!

The 3rd Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Pittsburgh South, on **February 10 & 11, 2007**. In addition to having a booth, Kathy will be teaching a "Crazy About Cables" class on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, with how-to's for interpreting cable stitch charts and tips for knitting cable stitch patterns. Kathy is the featured guest designer for CLASSIC ELITE YARNS Fall/Winter 2006 pattern collection, and the stitch chart featured in this class is Kathy's original "Princess cable". Brochures for this year's festival are expected in late December, with more details about class schedules & fees, highlights, and registration.

There will be a preview fashion show on Saturday, January 20, 2006, 2 pm - 4 pm, at the Galleria, Mount Lebanon. In addition to conventional knitting and crochet classes at the Festival, there will be a market, demos and exhibits. Attendees are invited to participate in an exciting group art project that explores fiber with local teachers and fiber artists, designed to expand your creativity with yarn and wool. This project will culminate in an exhibit at One Mellon Center in Pittsburgh in fall 2007.

This promises to be a "knit and crochet happening" you will not want to miss -- stay tuned for more details next month...

With sincere thanks for your support and patronage, we at Kathy's Kreations join in wishing you very happy holidays and a prosperous New Year. May your homes be filled with love, peace and joy of the season throughout the coming year.

KEEP KNITTING! Kathy