



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
DECEMBER 2007 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

When the holidays roll around, everyone's ready to celebrate. Bring on the holly, bring on the jolly -- it's time to knit (er, deck) the halls! We've got plenty of bright ideas for last-minute quick knits, stocking stuffers, and gifts for stitchers to help make this holiday memorable. When you give someone special something beautiful you thoughtfully made by hand, celebrate all you have to be thankful for, and decorate a happy home, the holiday spirit will be yours.

Our colorful window displays by Tracey Earhart will inspire you to wrap yourself up in your knitting and let the season glow. There are a bevy of books and ideas to "get the lead out" by knitting or felting a safe toy. Knitted toys, dolls and stuffed animals are thoughtful, old-fashioned gifts that express your love for the little ones. Also, a gift of knitting needles, crochet hook, and brightly colored yarn for their first projects is something you can do with your kids and grandkids long after Christmas is over...

May all the comfort and joy that your knitting and crocheting brings to others make you feel warm and bright. We've got "snowflake specials" and a holiday promotion as our gift to you:

"KNIT YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS"
All regularly-priced LANTERN MOON
& PONY ROSEWOOD needles
and all regularly-priced LANTERN MOON baskets
in stock are 10% off
during December 2007



Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
plus special extended holiday hours
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 *****

Kathy is very pleased to be among the local artisans and shopowners interviewed for the November 2007 issue of *Johnstown Magazine*, with the needlecrafts craze being the cover story. Many of the photographs featured in the article were snapped at Kathy's Kreations, and the article states, "It's clear that perpetuating the art of knitting in a fun environment is the shop's primary purpose". We invite you to stop by during the holiday season to join in all the fun, and find out what's new...

Knitter's Magazine Winter 2007 (\$5.95) is all about coming home, with warm thoughts and warm knits. In this issue, the editors tell us, "At the end of each day, we retreat to the place we call home. During the winter it is especially satisfying to enter our warm and secure haven. Cocooning during the cold spell is a perfect time to knit". In the pages of this edition, you'll find small projects in intarsia to help you build your skills, sweater options for guys, warm accessories, jackets, wraps and ladies' pullovers with captivating stitchwork. One of Kathy's designs "Winter Wheat", knit from TAHKI "Bunny" yarn (\$8.95, 50 grams, 81 yards, 50% merino wool / 25% alpaca / 25% acrylic) is included in the sweater collection, shown upper left. About this design, *Knitter's* says, "Wheat-colored wool and a basketweave texture are the perfect combination for a cozy turtleneck. You'll find it a mainstay for the season -- out in the snow, home by a fire, or shopping at the mall, it is a natural".

Looking for a hip and trendy handbag for a fashionable knitter or crocheter? The "Jetsetter" bag (\$72.95) from NAMASTE is a functional synthetic leatherette project bag with an oversized buckle and a modern shape. The "Vintage" bag (\$82.95) has the classy feel of the past with the pizzazz of the present. Its spacious interior can accommodate your project with a ring of pockets around the outside to hold straight or circular knitting needles and crochet hooks (not included). These are the perfect way to store and transport your project and tools in style...

TAHKI YARNS "Cloud" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 120 yards, 38% wool/ 36% nylon/ 13% cotton / 13% acrylic, CYCA yarn classification 5) is a lofty-but-light quick-knitting yarn that is an ideal choice for last-minute gift scarves, hats and mittens. Pastel tones alternate with a black-and-white mini-stripe ribbon for soft and sassy style...

INTERWEAVE KNITS Winter 2007 (\$6.99) features 22 timeless styles to knit now and wear forever. We highly recommend the "Back To Basics" article by Pam Allen, who shares her designer secrets for perfect sleeve caps every time (this article is a keeper!). There is a designer profile about one of Kathy's mentors, Kristin Nicholas (her book *Kristin Knits* is breathtaking), a designer as vibrant as her knitting. One of Kathy's sweaters is included in this issue, "Forbes Forest" (shown right), about which *Knits* says, "Kathy Zimmerman designed bobbles and cables to suggest the abundant undergrowth of ferns and berries in Pennsylvania's Forbes State Forest, with curved zigzags to remind her of the hiking trails that wind their way deep into the woods. Set-in patterned sleeves, a DK weight cashmere-blend yarn, and finely etched narrow cables refine traditional texture into a light, feminine sweater. Body motifs flow smoothly upward to a wide, casual boatneck"...



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

The most popular gift project among our customers this season is fingerless mitts. If you are frantically trying to knit yours, Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS has come to the rescue. Lisa has re-gauged her great-fitting fingering weight ribbed mitts pattern for a worsted weight gauge (shown right, \$4.00). We've got one in progress, worked in FILATURA DI CROSA "127 Print" (\$9.95, 50 grams, 93 yards, 100% wool, CYCA yarn classification 4), a lovely gradual self-striping yarn...



Be sure to check out our new felted handbag from NASHUA HANDKNITS "Designer Bags" booklet (\$14.95), knit by Kelly Gradischek from "Wooly Stripes" yarn. The "mock crock" leatherette shoulder strap handles are from LEISURE ARTS and come in a variety of shades to complement your bags (\$9.80 each)...

"Woodland Trio Pullover" from DAWN BROCCO Knitwear Designs (\$4.50, shown lower left) is a ladies pullover with a simply elegant intarsia tree motif to work for any of the four seasons. The sides have slits for ease in movement. Worked with a bulky yarn in mostly stockinette, the body and sleeves are knit circularly with the leaves worked in dupliocate stitch afterwards. Other patterns include adorable baby blankets (\$5.50 each) worked with double strands of worsted yarn in a large flower, large strawberry and pumpkin patch motifs...

New from CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS is "Puffin" (\$7.50, 50 grams, 84 yards, 100% polyester fleece, CYCA yarn classification 5) -- it's SOooo soft! This machine wash and dry poly-fleece yarn is great for children's knits (it reminds us of jammies) and is available in dotty shades and solids. It knits up at 3 sts / inch on US size 11 needles, so it's not only quick, it's easy! This holiday season, we are offering a free pattern for a baby hat with your purchase of "Puffin" yarn..

***** **4th ANNUAL PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL** *****

The Festival will feature 32 exhibitors from across the US (including Kathy's K creations, booth #7); over 40 fiber-related classes; free learn to knit & crochet classes; free "ER"; Warm Up America knitting lounge; and a knit/crochet/felting contest with prizes and ribbons. The dates are **Saturday, February 9 and Sunday, February 10, 2008**, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pittsburgh South (across from South Hills Village Mall). Discount admission coupons are available here at Kathy's K creations. To access class and program information, please visit their website, www.pghknitandcrochet.com

Event co-ordinator Barb Grossman tells us, "**Annie Modesitt** will be the guest teacher at this year's festival. She has written and co-authored several books. Author **Robyn Chacula** will also be teaching classes, giving a free lecture and doing a book signing. In her lecture, she will give us a peek at what goes on behind the scenes in the world of knitting and crochet's 'In Crowd'. **Kathy Zimmerman**, 'The Cable Queen' will once again be teaching 'Slip Stitch Savvy', and will be available at booth #7 throughout the Festival". In her class, Kathy will discuss the how-to's for working slip-stitch colorwork technique, hints for choosing colors and yarns, as well as tips for interpreting instructions. The "hands on" class project is Kathy's tweed-stitch hat which experiments with color combinations as the student learns the technique. Hope to see you there!





***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELF *****

Books make wonderful gifts, whether they are for knitting friends or a treat for yourself. The holiday season brings a bumper crop of new arrivals and here are our picks...

The Harmony Guides have been longstanding handknitting references for years. Whether you're an aspiring designer or a knitting enthusiast, beginner or experienced, the three updated Harmony Guides from INTERWEAVE PRESS will keep you "in stitches" for years to come (\$22.95 each). Each volume features 250 stitch patterns set to elevate your knitted projects to new heights, with a full-color photograph of each stitch and clear, concise pattern instructions:

Knit & Purl: from a simple garter stitch to a more complex Fancy Diamond, a classic Basketweave to a favorite Ridged Rib

Cables & Arans: from a simple folded cable to a more complex Honeycomb Cable, a classic Lattice to a favorite Wandering Cable

Lace & Eyelets: from simple Swinging Triangles to a more complex Butterfly Lace, a classic Leaf Panel to a favorite Florette Pattern

Cover Up with Nicky Epstein (\$29.95, hardcover) is a collection of 20 iconic designs from Nicky's personal collection, each a masterpiece of imagination and technical skill. Lush and beautifully photographed, this afghan collection is a knitter's treasury, with stunning pieces ranging from the simply elegant to the truly fantastic. Those who favor simplicity will adore the White Trees afghan in relief stitches. Fans of Epstein's signature embellished style can choose the celebrated Twelve Days of Christmas afghan, the Zodiac or any of the many other fabulous patchwork story designs. All are inspiring to look at and gratifying to make. This book makes the perfect gift for every knitter...

Nicky Epstein also shines in *Crocheted Flowers* (\$24.95, hardcover), providing an abundance of floral inspiration with layered petal flowers, one-piece flowers, twisted-technique flowers, felted blooms, ball flowers and leaves. Crocheters will be enticed by more than 50 of Nicky's eye-popping designs -- from the dignified trumpet, to the adorable blue rose trio, to the radiant pointsettia with beads. Easy to make, compact, and fuss-free, flowers encourage unbridled flights of fancy -- perfect for the novice or experienced crocheter. Renowned for her creativity, Nicky outdoes herself in creating projects like delicately adorned lanterns, a circle scarf, glamour gloves, felted bag, and a show-stopping embellished wedding dress. The best part? These flowers will last forever...

Tangled up by your latest knitting project? *The Knitting Answer Book* (\$14.95, soft cover) by veteran knitter Margaret Radcliffe will help you solve any knitting mystery you may encounter, from needle sizes and yarn weights to dropped stitches, tight ribbing, chart reading, and curling edges. Hundreds of detailed illustrations make this the one reference you'll want to keep tucked away in your knitting bag. Twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, this book is at your service...

Brought to you by your favorite designers, *101 Designer One-Skein Wonders* (\$18.95, softcover) and *Kristin Knits* (\$24.95, hardcover) are once again in stock. Hurry, these popular bestsellers are going fast...

***** KNIT CHRISTMAS BELL ORNAMENT *****

From Aunt Mary's archives comes a simple Christmas bell ornament. These patterns, shared by readers, appeared in Pat Trexler's "Pat Pointers" column in the Pittsburgh Press, October 1975. In addition to being a great stash buster, they make adorable package trims, lapel pins, tree ornaments or home dec treasures in the larger size. The size of the bell depends on your choice of yarn and needles. If you use fingering or sport weight yarn (CYCA yarn classification 2 or 3) and size US 2 or 3 needles, you'll have tiny bells about 3/4" long. Worsted weight (CYCA yarn classification 4) and US size 7 or 8 knitting needles make a medium-size bell about 1.5" long, while bulky yarn and US 10 - 11 needles will give you a large bell about 2.5" long. You may also use two or three strands of lighter weight yarn with the larger needles.



DIRECTIONS: Cast on 14 stitches.

Row 1 (wrong side): K10, P4.

Row 2: K (knit) all stitches.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 twenty-one more times (22 garter ridges), end with row 2. Bind off all stitches, leaving a 12" tail. Thread tail through a "Chibi" tapestry and sew together the bound-off and cast-on edges. The little border of stockinette is the bottom of the bell. Run the tapestry needle through the top end of the bell and draw together tightly. Fasten off and weave in end.

VARIATIONS: Tie a small jingle bell or pearl to the inside of the bell for a "clapper". Try using white angora or a contrasting color yarn for the 4-stitch cuff. Remember when changing colors to bring the new color under the old one to twist, preventing a hole.

Abbreviations: K - knit; P - purl

KNITTED WREATH: With worsted weight yarn and US size 3 needles, cast on 5 sts.

Row 1: K2, P1, K2.

Row 2: K.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 twenty-three times (24 garter ridges). Bind off. Weave ends together, then sew the two ends together to form a circle. If desired, sew beads to the wreath at scattered points for a festive touch. Cluster three tiny bells and attach to wreath. Add a small red yarn "bow", if desired.

CROCHET BELL DIRECTIONS (uses 10 yards of worsted weight yarn and US F or G crochet hook): Starting 2" from the end of the yarn, chain two. Place marker at the beginning of each round.

Round 1: Make eight single crochets in the first stitch of the chain.

Round 2: Make two single crochets in each stitch around.

Rounds 3 - 8: Make one single crochet in each stitch around.

Round 9: *single crochet in the first stitch, make two single crochets in the next stitch; repeat from * around.

Round 10: *make two single crochets in the first stitch, make one single crochet in each of the next 2 stitches; repeat from * around to the last three stitches. work a slip stitch in each of these three stitches to even up the edge. Slip stitch in the front loop of each stitch.

Finishing: Fasten and cut yarn, weaving in ends. With the beginning 2" end, attach a jingle bell on the inside.



***** QUICK HOLIDAY ORNAMENT IDEAS *****

From Pat's Pointers, the Pittsburgh Press, November 20, 1977, comes more holiday tree ornaments and package decorations shared by Pat's readers...

CLEVER CANDY CANES (knit)

MATERIALS: 25 yards each red and white sport weight yarn (CYCA yarn classification 3); US size 5 knitting needles, one pipe cleaner

GAUGE: not critical

DIRECTIONS: With red, cast on 9 stitches.

Row1: K2tog (knit 2 together), knit across to last stitch, increase one in the last stitch.

Row 2: Purl all stitches.

Repeat rows 1 & 2, alternating 4 rows of red stripes with four rows of white stripes. Work in this manner until you have completed five red stripes and four white stripes. Bind off, sew together the long edges to form a tube and insert the pipe cleaner into the tube. Bend the top over to form the curve of the candy cane. Sew ends.

CABLED WREATH (knit)

MATERIALS: 25 yards green sport weight yarn (CYCA yarn classification 3); US size 5 knitting needles; cable needle (cn)

GAUGE: not critical

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 10 stitches.

Row 1 (right side): P1, K8, P1.

Row 2: K1, P8, K1.

Row 3: P1, slip the next 4 sts to cn and hold in back of work; K4; K4 from cn, P1.

Rows 4, 6 & 8: Repeat row 2.

Rows 5 & 7: repeat row 1.

Repeat rows 1 - 8 until 5 cable twists completed. Bind off and sew long edges together.

Form a circle by sewing the cast on end to the bound-off end. Trim with a tiny yarn "bow", add beads or colored sequins as desired.

VARIATIONS: Try experimenting with different weights of yarn and corresponding needles.

From Pat's Pointers, the Pittsburgh Press, October 22, 1978:

CROCHETED STAR (measures approx. 3.5" across)

MATERIALS: 25 yards white sport weight yarn (CYCA yarn classification 3) or heavy duty crochet cotton; US size F crochet hook

NOTE: the size of star can be varied by changing the yarn weight, hook size or both.

DIRECTIONS: Chain 5 sts and join with a slip stitch to form a ring.

Round 1: Chain two, work 14 half-double crochets into ring, joining with a slip stitch in the top of the chain two made at the beginning of the round.

Round 2: *chain 7, slip stitch in the second chain from the hook, work a single crochet in the next chain, a half-double crochet in the next chain, a double crochet in each of the next 2 chains, a treble crochet in the last chain; skip two half-double crochets of the previous round and slip stitch in the next half-double*. Repeat between *s four times more to complete the star.

HOW-TO's: To make a half-double crochet, wrap yarn once around the hook (yarnover), draw up a loop through the stitch, yarnover and draw hook through all three loops on the hook at one time.

To make a treble crochet, wrap the yarn twice around the hook before inserting the hook into the next stitch. Yarnover and draw yarn through stitch. There are now four loops on the hook. Yarnover and draw through two loops. Repeat this last step twice more and the treble is complete.

***** LINDA'S EASY SCARF *****

Our thanks to Linda Kruel for sharing her beautiful, easy scarf pattern. For a touch of extra holiday cheer, try knitting this in one of our colorful self-stripping, hand-painted or kettle-dyed yarns for a contemporary look...

FINISHED SIZE: 6" X 60"

MATERIALS: 300 yards worsted weight yarn; US size 8 knitting needles

GAUGE: 4.5 sts = 1" in pattern

PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 3 + 1)

All rows: K3; *yarn over (yo), K2tog, K1; repeat from * to last st; end K1.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 28 sts. K 3 rows. Work in pattern stitch until piece measures 59.5" or desired length. K 3 rows. Bind off all sts.

***** KNITTING TIPS *****

--- This sock knitting tip from Cheryl Austin appeared on Knitnet.com : When knitting socks with a lace pattern, a traditional yarnover can result in a bigger hole than desired, particularly for a knitter who tends to knit loosely. Try omitting the yarn, placing a marker instead. When coming to the marker on the next row, lift the working yarn between the stitches and knit it. This is similar to working a "make 1", but **do not** work into the back loop or you will make an invisible increase. Simply working into the space will result in a hole with a pleasing appearance...

--- Creative Director Pam Allen @classiceliteyarns.com comes a great idea for picking up cardigan bands: "Before I invest the time to pick up an entire edge, I like to establish a stitches-to-row formula for picking up along a vertical edge. I usually begin with the recommended rate (3 sts to 4 rows) along a 4" length of edge. Then I knit the trim along this picked-up edge. If it still measures 4" and looks smooth and tidy -- no waves or puckers -- I'm golden. I rip out and pick up the entire edge with confidence. If not, I have to experiment. If 3 sts to 4 rows stretches the edge, I try 2 sts every 4 rows; if 3 sts to 4 rows puckers, I try 4 to 4. Once I find the best formula, I know that I'll have a successful band". Thanks, Pam!

--- Stash buster: trim your Christmas packages and tags with yarn instead of ribbons, making tassels and pompoms instead of bows. This is particularly good for packages which are to be mailed as these do not crush as readily as ribbon. Add some metallic yarn for a special touch of glitter...

***** AN ODE TO KNITTERS *****

'Tis the season when most shop at the mall,
but not us knitters, we're not crazy as y'all.

We lounge at home in front of our fires,
knitting last-minute sweaters, proving ourselves liars.

For didn't we proclaim just ten months ago,
that we'd complete our holiday knitting before the first snow?

And didn't we swear to ourselves up and down,
that we'd use yarn from our stash and not buy more in town?

But hey, what the heck, the new yarns are delightful,
And some of that stash, well, it's just plain frightful!

So with new yarns in hand, we'll knit, rip out, whatever,
until we're completely satisfied with our latest endeavor.

Then we'll wrap it in paper so pretty, we bought the whole lot full,
just to hear those satisfying words,

"Did you make it yourself? How thoughtful!"

Of course, beginning in January, when all holidays have gone by,
we'll swear next year's projects will be done by July!

courtesy of Skacel Collection



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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Monday, January 7, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Please note that there will be no meeting in December because of B&N holiday activities...



***** **"KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS*******

Tuesday evenings, December 11, 2007, and January 8, 2008, 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 are welcome to come, sit & knit!

***** **FUN FRIDAY with instructor Betty Lou Glasso** *****

Friday, December 14, 2007, 10 am - 2pm

It's fun! It's free! All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Betty Lou is available for help with your questions, skill-building and last minute fixes. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

***** **UPCOMING CLASSES** *****

**"Finishing Techniques" with instructor Nancy Premoshis, Saturday, January 12, 2008
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm \$15* registration fee plus class materials as needed**

You've successfully completed the knitted pieces of your project and it's time to put it together -- now what? Nancy will show you the how-to's of mattress stitch seams, picking up stitches and more. Please bring a garment to finish or swatches for practice. Class supplies include yarn used for your project and corresponding needles, a "CHIBI" or tapestry needle, and scissors.

**"My First Cardigan" with instructor Nancy Premoshis, Saturday, February 23, 2008
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm \$15* registration fee plus class materials as needed**

Nancy will help you to get started on a cardigan project of your choice. Class supplies include a pattern, project yarn and corresponding needles.

*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 3 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 and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.
Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 27 years!**

***** **EMMA EVENTS** *****

If crowded mall shopping experiences aren't for you, try the Ligonier alternative! In addition to our regular hours, join us for a town-wide Open House **Sunday afternoon, December 2, 2007**, and for **"First Friday on East Main" Knit-In Friday, December 7, 2007, 5:00 - 8:00 pm**. The Festival of Lights will be at the Town Hall **December 1 - 9, 2007**.

Best wishes for a happy and joyous holiday season. KEEP KNITTING! Kathy