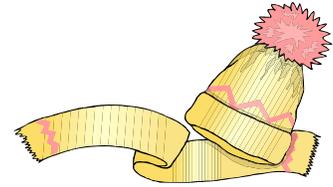




KATHY'S KREATIONS  
141 East Main Street  
Ligonier, PA 15658  
724-238-9320  
DECEMBER 2008 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

The holidays are all about family -- "Happy Holidays" to you and your loved ones! Cherish them all and celebrate. The 2008 holiday season comes at the end of a year of historic events that have changed how we live our lives. The best way to have a wonderful holiday is to simplify it and enjoy the time you'll spend with friends and family. The true spirit of the season is upheld when it's stress-free and brings joy to the giver as well as the recipient.

For knitters, crocheters, and stitchers, there is a deep satisfaction that comes in giving handcrafted gifts and making a house a home with handmade treasures. As you are making your holiday plans, let your creative hands bring forth gifts from the heart, and set a positive tone for the New Year. We're dedicated to being the shop you can count on for projects and accessories to make for your home and the people you love. From sweaters for your family, to little stocking stuffers for stitching friends and all the joy that handmade gifts bring, we have the ideas and supplies to help you make your holidays special and well-received...

### "HAVE A WOOL YULE"

**All regularly-priced 100% WOOL YARNS in stock  
are 10% off during December 2008**

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](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations.com)  
please visit our website [www.kathys-kreations.com](http://www.kathys-kreations.com)



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

Colder weather may be here, but comfort and joy are as close as your knitting basket. Most knitters, crocheters and stitchers are "nesters". We are contented to snuggle up in our favorite chair with our latest project under a handmade afghan, perhaps wearing one or more of our creations. Settle in for a long winter's evening with some of these items to inspire you...

KNITTER'S Magaine Winter 2008 (\$5.95) invites you to "mix it up". Great techniques combined with color and texture will make sure you are cozy, warm and busy no matter what Mother Nature sends your way. If you have never tried it, now is the time to explore intarsia with a charming cushion and afghan for cat lovers. There are a half dozen renditions of curious cats, each done in two colorways of TAHKI "Donegal Tweed". Winter calls for knits with substance, and we are thrilled that three of Kathy's designs are featured in this issue. "Ribs 'n Stripes" (shown upper left) shifts ribbing back and forth through the use of knits, purls, and slip stitches -- an elegant approach to stripes. Comfortable layers can become coat replacements for much of the season. "Golden Cables" (shown lower right) is cropped and worked with a hand-painted alpaca used doubled. You'll be snug and warm, thanks to the cables throughout the sleeves and body. And, "Candied Plums" (shown page 5) is a bulky, multi-color set that mixes cables and elongated stitches. There are also socks, shawls, knitted jewelry and much more in this "keeper" issue...

We're big fans of Elise Duvokot's new book, *Knit One Below* (see page 4). Our sample scarf-in-progress is on display using a new kettle-dyed yarn, MANOS DEL URAGUAY "Silk Blend DK" (\$13.00, 50 grams, 150 yards, 30% silk / 70% merino wool, CYCA yarn classification 3). New shades of MANOS "Wool Classica" are also here...

ROWAN introduces the British Sheep Breeds Collection "Purelife" (\$14.50, 100 grams, 120 yards, CYCA classification 5), shorn & blended from British sheep and spun into beautiful undyed yarn that is eco-responsible. The pattern support booklet (\$18.50) features 12 timeless classics for men and women. Also new from ROWAN are "The Cocoon Collection" booklet (\$18.50) with beautiful patterns for ladies', and rustic "Rowan Scottish Tweed Aran" yarn (\$16.50, 100 grams, 186 yards, 100% wool, CYCA yarn classification 4), a perennial favorite best showcased with simple stitches or sculptural cables...

This season's contemporary jackets and knitted bags often call for a single dramatic button closure. We've just received a shipment of fabulous buttons from BLUE MOON and RENAISSANCE buttons, for that perfect finishing touch. In addition to wood and metal buttons, be sure to check out the whimsical novelty buttons for kids' garments...

We've received numerous requests for hooded scarf patterns, this season's hottest fashion accessory. The plush, plump, braided cables of "Pfeiffer Falls Hooded Scarf", featured in the winter issue of INTERWEAVE KNITS (\$6.99), will block the chilliest wind. There are plenty of cozy accessories, stitch sampler pillows for the home (look for leaf & vine motifs to be everywhere this season right into spring), ribbed socks, and textured sweaters to keep you warm. Deborah Newton's "Beyond The Basics" column on slip-stitch technical tips and texturing techniques is well worth the read...



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

There are times when something special is required to fill a need, provide comfort or give someone a blessing. For that reason, we present "Knitted Prayer Shawls", a collection of shawls and throws by our own Lisa Carnahan (\$9.95, shown upper right). In addition to rectangular shapes in a variety of sizes, two shawls that are shaped to fit around a person's shoulders are included. Sample "prayers" are included...



Gadgets and gizmos make wonderful stocking stuffers and we just can't seem to resist them! Our latest is the Might Bright micro clip light (\$6.50) in assorted colors, which our staff has personally road-tested and found that the light amazingly is bright enough to knit in the car at night (when not in the driver's seat, of course!). We also have received a supply of LANTERN MOON peppermint candy-shaped tape measures (\$9.50) and mini-sweater key rings (\$3.95)...

Attention, fans of the Wonderful Wallaby! COTTAGE CREATIONS updates the look by introducing "Kyler's Kardigan" (\$8.95), a top-down, garter stitch, raglan sleeve, Wonderful Wallaby hoodie for the entire family, that either buttons or zips...

Judging by the volume of beautiful felted totes and hats worn into the shop by our customers, felted knits continue to be very popular. NONI DESIGNS has some new patterns that are eye-catching and easy to make. We recommend:

- "Warmy Hats for Everyone" (\$8.95) super comfy and warm with ear flaps in two styles; lightly felted for maximum coziness in sizes to fit everyone in the family, even those with big hair
- "Happy Stripes" (\$8.50) felted oven mitts in 3 sizes, hot handle grabbers and trivets with pizzazz (optional flower embellishments); takes only one skein per oven mitt
- "Green Earth Grocery Bag" (\$8.95) 3 naturally insulated, sturdy, use-em-again bags
- "Still Life: Bag with Pears" (\$8.95) a big hit at Stitches East! Felted "Bosc pears" nestled under leaves dangle from their branches on this unusually delicious-looking bag; the roomy bag is knit from the bottom up (small and large sizes)
- "Yummy Lunch" (\$8.50) two easy-to-knit lunch bags for men, women & kids; a fully washable & stylish alternative to the brown bag

Two other new NONI patterns include "One Cute Hoodie" (\$8.95 each) for little girls & women in sizes 2T to 2X (#1102) and for Boys & Men in sizes 2T to 50" chest (#1202)

We're wrapping up the year by sticking our necks out -- scarf knitting is making a resurgence. We've got more scarf patterns than ever before, from simple garter stitch diagonals (free with yarn purchase for project) to multi-directional and challenging. Our selection will fit any yarn, style, skill level and budget. One of our favorites is KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO's "Diamond Scarf" (shown lower left), with a central textured diamond cable with leaf insert framed by smaller ribbed cables within a seed stitch border. If you would like to know more about working lace and cable combinations and knitting from a chart, we are offering a class for this project on December 6 (see page 8). Pattern is available separately (\$4.50) or this project may also be purchased as a kit (\$41.50), using K1, C2's luxurious "Camelino", 90% merino wool / 10% camel blend...





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

Betty Lou and Kathy went to Stitches East in Baltimore last month, where they took classes in an innovative new technique popularized in *Knit One Below* by Elise Duvekot (\$19.95, softcover, shown left). *Knit One Below* introduces a new and exciting way for knitters to combine colors, weights, fibers, and types of yarn into versatile fabrics. The technique alternates one simple action, working into the stitch one row below the stitch on the needle, with a knit or a purl. With this technique, you can mix colors with ease working only one color per row, create reversible fabrics, combine textures, add cables & intarsia, transform stash into style, and tame curling edges. From head and shoulder to sleeve and toe, build you wardrobe with *Knit One Below*, our "best pick" of the season (Betty Lou and Kathy will be team teaching a how-to class on January 10, see page 8)...

Influenced by cultures from around the world, Cheryl Oberle's *Knit Jackets with Style* (\$22.95, softcover) make folk traditions modern. This collection of 20 stylish, wearable jackets showcases a range of knitting techniques and garments varying from short to long, close to loose fitting, and every design features gorgeous colors and textures. Take a world tour and find inspiration for incredibly beautiful creations that can be worn everyday...

Bring your knits to life with color! *Color Style* (\$24.95, softcover) is a collection of classic and innovative designs using traditional color techniques by top knitwear designers, perfect for beginners and experienced knitters alike. Learn ways to work color into a knitted project, from subtle to dramatic, from simple alternating stripes to multicolored Fair Isle. A Design Notebook details fundamental ways to design your own masterpiece...

At sleep, at play, in the nursery, and on the go, adorable babies need adorable knits. *Itty-Bitty Nursery* (\$17.95, spiral bound) includes forty one-of-a-kind pieces that manage to be utterly charming, fabulous, and usable all at the same time. Baby sets and toys, jackets and mittens, and a pure and sweet layette are just the tip of the knitting frenzy. There are easy-to-knit whimsical pillows to brighten the nursery, pacifier clips, stroller blankets, appealing sweaters and cozy slippers for babies and toddlers to wear in comfort, as well as delectable toys for playtime and handy items for parents who cherish their babies...

*Ultimate Knitting Bible* (\$29.95, hardcover) is the definitive reference for all aspects of knitting -- from the first stitch you cast on to the care and maintenance of your projects. If you are a novice knitter, this book will guide you step-by-step through everything you need to know in order to confidently knit any project that catches your eye, from the simplest scarf to the most gorgeously textured and embellished sweater. If you are an experienced knitter, this book will be an invaluable treasure trove of techniques that you can dive into and learn new skills. Once the skills are mastered, chapters on professional finishing techniques, troubleshooting and designing & adapting patterns will arm you with all the know-how you need to take your knitting to another level. This one-stop volume makes every aspect of the knitting process accessible to knitters of all ages and abilities...

\*\*\* PUNCH NEEDLE EMBROIDERY NEWS \*\*\*

We are pleased to introduce two HELEN'S TREASURES patterns, designed by our own Helen Stetina! Both the "Wee Tree Ornament" (\$29.95 kit, shown at right) and "Bauble Ornament" (\$16.00, pattern and weaver's cloth) will look great as a package or tree trim. Helen will be offering beginner and intermediate classes after the holidays -- please feel free to contact her via e-mail: [guppy0613@comcast.net](mailto:guppy0613@comcast.net)



Also new in PN are LIZZIE KATE's joyful "Santa '08" (\$14.50); STONE & THREAD "Snowman & Stars" and "Candy Canes and Christmas Trees" ornaments with button embellishments (\$15.50 each); BUTTERMILK BASIN's "Santa Punch", "Frosty Punch", and "S\*N\*O\*W" vintage-inspired designs (\$8.50 each); HOMESPUN ELEGANCE "Santa Time" (\$9.50) and "Folk Art Santa" (\$12.50) minis suitable for locket or necklace finishing; and WOOLLEY FOX "Mister Kringle", an Old World Santa (\$14.00)...

\*\*\* RUG PUNCH NEWS \*\*\*

Tracey Earhart will be announcing dates for upcoming rug punch gatherings and classes after the New Year. In the meantime, we've received a shipment of the fine gauge rug punch tools from AMY OXFORD (\$22.50), and the following rug punch patterns for your punching pleasure:

- MOSEY 'n ME "Ewe Be Round" (\$9.50), an adorable primitive folk art sheep
- MOSEY 'n ME "Christmas Goodies" (\$15.50), a primitive collage of holiday icons
- TERESA KOGUT "Snowman" (\$38.95), a delightful snowman in Teresa's trademark style, hand drawn on monk's cloth for hook / punch

\*\*\* HELPFUL HINTS \*\*\*\*\*

Thanks to Dolores Turney for her clever ideas for a sweater or shawl closure: use a kilt pin with yarn wrapped around it (use a dab of good fabric glue to secure the yarn).

Eleanor Swogger recently shared a tip for blocking lace shawls worked with slippery yarns like bamboo, rayon, silk, pima cotton, etc. . Before blocking, Eleanor weaves in all ends, leaving just a slight tail. Blocking will help all the loose ends get secured in place, and "set the stitches". Sometimes the ends can work loose during the blocking process. After blocking is completed, go back and trim the ends. This saves weaving in ends twice. Thanks, Eleanor!

Experts such as Ann Budd of INTERWEAVE PRESS suggest using a yardstick rather than a tape measure when blocking knitted pieces. Tape measures can stretch and cause inaccuracies in your final measurements (from *knitting daily@interweave.com*)

SWATCHING is important not only for the gauge measurement, but it is useful for experimenting with stitches, increase / decrease methods, color placement, etc. Don't forget to block your swatch before measuring gauge!



Threading yarn into a tapestry needle is easier if you cut a strip of paper about 2" long and just wide enough to fit through the eye of the needle. Fold the paper in half lengthwise, crease the fold, then sandwich the yarn in the paper and slip it through the needle.

(original source Linda Medina, designer; *Knit Simple*, S/S '08)

\*\*\* INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW \*\*\*

Sara P asked: "How do I know how many yards are in a 50 gram ball?" This varies from yarn to yarn. "Grams" is a measurement of weight and 50 grams equals about 1.75 ounces, 100 grams equals about 3.5 ounces. The number of yards will be indicated on the label by the manufacturer -- all 50 gram balls are not equal -- one may contain 50 yards, others 150, and everything in between. It is therefore more accurate to purchase yarn by yardage rather than weight.

JoAnne B. asked: "What is the best surface for blocking garments?" Kathy prefers to use a large piece of styrofoam covered with a plastic tablecloth, swears by blocking wires and TULIP T-pins. Sandi Wiseheart of *knittingdaily@interweave.com* tells us that the following surfaces will work: blocking boards, mattresses, towel-covered tables, foam floors, cork boards -- anything waterproof and pin-able.

\*\*\* 'TIS THE SEASON \*\*\*

A sincere "thank you" to Sharon Greve, Newsletter Editor of the Four Corners Knitting Guild, for graciously permitting us to re-print her column, "The Dropped Stitch -- 'Tis the Red Season and A Knitter's Christmas Quiz" (next page)", as seen in THE COUNTRY REGISTER November -December 2008.

THE DROPPED STITCH by Sharon Greve  
"Tis The Red Season

Colors are powerful symbols. As human beings, we rely upon certain colors to represent special holidays. Thus, red and green are the colors of this special season with red being the color of passion, strength, life and death, and power. It is the most emotionally intense color.

A little bit of red goes a long way -- even for this holiday season. Small doses can often be more effective than large amounts. That is, except for the North Pole and its jolly proprietor. When planning a holiday knitting gift, keep in mind that multiple shades of red and even pink and orange can combine for a cheerful palette. Match the shade of red to the intended receiver of your fiber project. Color sets a mood and depicts an attitude -- possibly not the one intended. Red clothing gets noticed and makes the wearer appear heavier. (Evidently, no one has told Santa.) Since it is an extreme color, red clothing might not help people in negotiations or confrontations at this stressful time.

Cool blues, purple or black provide contrast and tone down the heat of red. Yellow, orange, and coral elevate warm reds. Light pinks and yellow are harmonizing colors that work well with red if not too close in value such as dark red with a pale or golden yellow. Caution should be taken when using purple; it can be an elegant combination but too much can be overpowering. Try adding a dash of red to a soft but sophisticated pink and gray combo. There are no rules against mixing cool and warm reds. Blending them offers the sense of a complete spectrum and a fuller palette. The trick is to use enough variation -- light and dark, subtle and strong -- to provide visual interest.

Red has many names: scarlet, crimson, vermillion, carmine, ,aroon, russet, burgundy, ruby, rose, madder, nbrick, blood red, cinnabar, flame .. and the list goes on and on.

Red by any other name is still red. Wear it well this joyous season.



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A KNITTER'S QUIZ ... *No Peeking!* by Sharon Greve



1. Symbol for main color  
**M** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Work these into work to hide  
**E** \_\_\_\_\_
3. The "public" side of the garment  
**R** \_\_\_\_\_
4. A row worked circularly with no turning at the end  
**R** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Stitch used in eyelet and lace patterns  
**Y** \_\_\_\_\_
6. Tool used to pick up dropped stitches  
**C** \_\_\_\_\_
7. Cap with a brim  
**H** \_\_\_\_\_
8. K1, P1 repeated across row  
**R** \_\_\_\_\_
9. Knitted stitch cording on double-point needles  
**I** \_\_\_\_\_
10. Every sweater has two --hopefully, the same length  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_
11. Very important for proper measurement  
**T** \_\_\_\_\_
12. Object placed on needle between stitches to indicate a place in knitting  
**M** \_\_\_\_\_
13. Another name for a blanket  
**A** \_\_\_\_\_
14. 4" X 4" trial piece of knitting  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_

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1. MC; 2. Ends; 3. Right Side (RS); 4. Round (Rnd); 5. Yarn Over (yo); 6. Crochet Hook; 7. Hat; 8. Rib(bing); 9. I-cord; 10. Sleeve; 11. Tension; 12. Marker; 13. Afghan; 14. Swatch.

\*\*\* LAST-MINUTE RIBBED HAT \*\*\*

SIZES: Toddler's (child's - adult small - adult medium - adult large in parentheses)

MATERIALS: 100 (150 - 175 - 200 - 225) yards worsted weight yarn; US size 7 16" circular needle & double-pointed needles (dpns); stitch marker

GAUGE: approx. 5 sts = 1" in stockinette stitch

DIRECTIONS: With circular needles, cast on 88 (92 - 96 - 100 - 104) stitches. Place marker; join, being careful not to twist stitches. Work in K2, P2 ribbing until piece measures 6" (6.5" - 7" - 7.5" - 8"), ending at marker. Work crown, changing to dpns as needed.

Round 1: \*K2, P2tog (purl 2 sts together); repeat from \* around.

Rounds 2 & 3: \*K2, P1; repeat from \* around.

Round 4: \*K2tog (knit 2 sts together), P1; repeat from \* around.

Round 5: \*K1, P1; repeat from \* around.

Rounds 6 & 7: \*K2tog; repeat from \* around. Cut tail, leaving a 12" tail. Weave through remaining stitches, pull up tightly and secure. Weave in ends.



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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Monday, January 5, 2009, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. We will not be meeting in December because of B&N holiday special events...

**\*\*\* "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, December 9, 2008, and January 13, 2009, from 7 - 9 pm \*\*\***

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

**\*\*\* FUN FRIDAYS, December 12, 2008, and January 9, 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 CLASSES \*\*\***

**"Diamond Scarf" with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; Saturday, December 6, 2008; a 3-hour knitting class with instructor Kathy Zimmerman 1:00 - 4:00 pm; registration fee \$25.00\* (includes pattern) for intermediate knitters**

The high-relief diamond cable is perfectly framed by smaller cables and seed stitch. Kathy will teach you how to follow a stitch chart, work yarnovers and cables and the how-to's needed to make this beautiful scarf. Additional student supplies include 325 yards of worsted weight yarn, US size 7 needles, cable needle and row counter.

**"Inside-Outside Scarf" with instructors Betty Lou Glasso & Kathy Zimmerman; Saturday, January 10, 2009; a 3-hour knitting class 12:00 noon am - 3:00 pm; registration fee \$25.00\* (includes pattern)**

The fabulous new book, "Knit One Below" by Elise Duvekot introduces an innovative exciting way for knitters to combine colors, weights, fibers, and types of yarn into versatile fabrics. Learn the technique, which alternates one simple action, working into the stitch one row below the stitch on the needle, with a knit or a purl. Pick two balls of contrasting yarn & work the versatile Column Pattern for an unique reversible scarf. Yarn (approx. 200 yards worsted weight yarn each of 2 colors), and needles (US 10) are the responsibility of the student. Additional student supplies include row counter and small sharp scissors.

\*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](mailto: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 28 years!**

We sincerely thank you for your business during the past year and wish you every happiness for the holidays and the coming New Year. KEEP KNITTING! Kathy