



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
DECEMBER 2014 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

My friend Nan came in recently to announce the birth of her first grandchild, a beautiful little girl. She was enthusiastic to begin knitting a Christmas stocking for this new addition to her family, and is already planning post-holiday baby knitting projects. Nan's excitement and joy got us to thinking about holiday traditions. If you celebrate Christmas, handcrafted personalized stockings for the entire family are a time-honored way of capturing the magic of the season, making Christmas feel complete.

We love holiday traditions here at Kathy's Kreations. Whether established last year or a generation ago, simple things bring us together at this special time of year -- hanging hand-stitched stockings on the mantel, stringing a garland with heirloom items, baking cookies, and welcoming friends and relatives to our homes.

We also love being creative. This year, for every cherished custom, try something new to bring cheer to the winter holidays. Deck the mantel with an unexpected mix of hand-knit or crocheted ornaments and colorful decor. Host a stitching party for friends who need to finish last-minute knit or crochet items for surprise gifts that they don't want their family to see. Accompany each of your handmade projects with a complimentary gift, like a pair of tickets to a football game tucked in a team colors hat, scented hand soap with a knitted wash cloth, or a lovely shawl pin with a neck wrap.

There is always comfort and joy in gift giving, especially when that gift is handmade. If your schedule is too jammed for this year, suggest that next year's family or office gift exchange be "handmade for the holidays" and start early. Making something beautiful with your hands is a wonderful way to make the holidays merry and bright.

Celebrate family and friends this holiday season, and enjoy our special promotion, here in the nick of time:

"HAVE A WOOL YULE!"
10% off all purchases of in-stock,
regularly-priced 100% wool yarns
throughout December 2014
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday through Saturday
Closed Sunday

We will be open for the LIGONIER MERCHANTS' OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, December 7, 2014 12 noon - 4 pm

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX
Private knitting and crocheting
Instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates available
Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON



e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website <http://www.kathys-kreations.com>





*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

We've been counting down the days and, at long last, it's December when the Holidays officially begin here at Kathy's Kreation's. As always, we are so grateful for your continued support and loyalty to us over the years. Don't forget to take some time out during the busy holiday season to prop your feet up and stitch a few rows here and there. It's important to keep yourself grounded and unstressed. We're thrilled and enthusiastic about this year's holiday projects and gift ideas focusing on much-loved traditions and some fresh ideas like these...

Interweave Knits Winter 2015 (\$7.99) is packed full of 21 rugged, outdoorsy knits that function for winter. Inside this issue, you will discover dreamy, dramatic generous wraps and belted jackets in interesting, dense, textured patterns. All the wraps and cowls are reversible or somehow two-sided, which makes so much sense for accessories that don't always lie with one side hidden. You'll find big scarves and oversized stoles that have easy-to-remember stitches, making them perfect projects to knit during holiday travel. Bits of western colorwork embellishment are introduced in the Outfitted collection, while sleek luxe fibers, oversized silhouettes, retro shapes, cables, and feminine details characterize the Mulberry Cottage collection, in cool, colorful winter hues.

We are thrilled that one of Kathy's designs, *Wind At Your Back Pullover* (shown upper left) is part of the Mulberry Cottage designs. About this garment, *Knits* editors say: "Aran meets gansey in this pullover. The upper body pays homage to traditional Aran stitchwork, while the faux smocking pattern on the lower body and sleeves pay tribute to the classic fisherman's gansey". This sweater was inspired by Victorian architecture during one of Kathy's vacations in Cape May, NJ.

Take a journey to the edge of comfort with this issue: see where the warmest fiber grows in the coldest places, as well as how knitters have been stitching color and joy in harsh climates for ages...

Knitting is a wonderful craft that combines creativity, fashion, and pleasure. *BERGERE DE FRANCE Creations 2014/15* (\$20.00) is an exceptional collection of 150 different patterns with the latest fashion trends. These designs are the perfect canvas to which you can add your own personal touch, by changing the color or adding your own details...

We have just received a small selection of beautiful yarn bowls, hand thrown and exquisitely painted by local artisan Marian Lech (\$45.00). These unique one-of-a-kind pieces are a thoughtful and much appreciated gift for any knitter or crocheter (including yourself!)

Your favorite KNITTER'S PRIDE "Nova" needle is now "Nova Platina". Some of our customers are reporting that they are allergic to brass needles. KNITTER'S PRIDE introduces brass needles that are chrome-plated with a sizzling sheen and unparalleled surface finish. The tips are more pointed and tapered to serve all your knitting needs...

In *Knit Simple Winter 2014* (\$6.99), you'll find your neck's project: 12 easy wraps & cowls for every occasion. Life is busy. One spot-on accessory pulls everything together in a flash. Cowls like the ridged pattern beauty (shown at right) are the perfect winter warmers. Shorter versions fit snugly under your coat, while the larger and longer infinity loops drape over outerwear or spruce up a plain jacket. Once you've stitched up your stash of cowls, move on to keeping your shoulders warm by stitching up a few shawls, wraps or winter woolies. Crocheters will love the long, double crochet striped shawl as a perfect layering piece. There are 34 quick and cozy knits in this issue, including fast & fun contemporary accents for your home, sweet, home...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Love the feel of luxurious silk running through your fingertips? SCHULANA "Sayonara Print" (\$24.95, 100% silk, 164 yards, 50 grams, CYCA #4) ribbon is light, crisp and perfect for accessories. Each shade shifts between a neutral base and a sun-soaked bright, so even the simplest knitting will sing. Our Ribbed Loop (shown right) is the perfect project for evenings when you want to relax, yet still want to knit. Knit in the round (so you never have to turn your work), the fabulous ridges are easily created simply by knitting rounds for a while, then purling rounds. The colorful stripes are automatically created by the long-runs of the beautiful dyes. You really can't mess up! This loop takes only two balls -- so it is far more affordable than you think -- and would look fabulous for New Years' Eve. The pattern is free with your purchase to make this project. Did you know that the item we refer to as a cowl in the USA is frequently called a "loop" in Europe?



CRYSTAL PALACE "Nocturne DK" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 135 yards, 47% merino wool / 33% acrylic / 20% nylon, CYCA #3) is a slow-striping, plied yarn with lovely stitch definition. The color shading makes it ideal for simple garter stitch shawlettes and diagonal scarves...

As the countdown to Christmas ticks closer, customers often ask us for suggestions for quick-knitting last-minute gifts. Our favorite continues to be the easy-knit seed stitch "Gaptastic" cowl, knit with US size 13 24" circular needles and one ball of JAMES BRETT "Marble Chunky" (\$15.50, 200 grams, 341 yards, 100% machine washable acrylic, CYCA #5). We have just received eight new colorful shades in denims & jewel tones. Big, chunky cowls like "Gaptastic" are very fashion-forward, and extremely practical when winter winds blow.

Another popular favorite is one-skein project CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS "Wetted Fingerless Mitts" (\$5.50). These mitts need only 100 yards DK weight to make and are great to wear on chilly days, or layered over your fine leather gloves when the temperature drops. Either way, they are all about style. Choose an elegant yarn like kettle-dyed MANOS DEL URUGUAY "Silk Blend" (\$14.95, 50 grams, 150 yards, 30% silk / 70% merino extrafine wool, CYCA #3) for an extra-special gift for a dear friend...

We have a large selection of interchangeable knitting needle sets from KNITTER'S PRIDE, KNIT PICKS, Hiya Hiya, PLYMOUTH and ADDI. The latest to arrive are CHIAGOO "Twist" premium Red Lace Interchangeable sets (\$97.50). These are a high-quality product with great overall value and ease of use. The needles are well-balanced and the point is perfect for getting into the sometimes tight stitch. The join of the high-grade stainless steel needle to the nylon-coated, multi-strand steel cable is seamless with smooth transitions. These are available in small (US sizes 2 through 8) or large (US sizes 9 - 15). Both sets come in an attractive, compact, zippered, book-style fabric case with two double rows of pockets. Other features include lifeline holes and coding...

Stocking stuffers? We've got 'em: EUCALAN trial size to remind your loved ones to care for your handmade gifts (\$5.95), NAMASTE Jemma pouches for doo-dads (\$7.50), handy HiyaHiya puppy snips & knitty snips (\$6.50), Lantern Moon tape measures (\$10.50), LEE highlighter tape (\$5.59), KNITTER'S PRIDE needle sizers (\$3.50) and, oh yeah -- gift certificates in all denominations!



Crocheters, indulge your hands! In the ADDI Colours set (\$91.00, shown lower left), you have nine different sizes of steel crochet hooks with comfort grip color-coded handles -- useful, elegant and well-arranged in a compact vinyl carrying case. Great for travel, as well as every day...



*** KATHY GOT A BOOK COVER! ***

Everyone loves versatile knits, and what's more versatile than a vest? A vest is the ultimate knitter-friendly project: quicker to make than a whole sweater, wearable in any season, and the perfect canvas for a full range of stitch patterns, shapes, and techniques. *Vest Bets: 30 Designs to Knit Now* by Sixth & Spring Publishing (\$17.99) is a collection of 30 designs from some of the hottest names in knitwear. This book is the first book in the new Modern Knit Mix series, with designs that work for every season and

occasion.

We are very pleased that Kathy's cabled design, "Ruffian" (shown upper left) graces the cover! About this design, the editors say: "A rustic shade of gray strikes the right tone as Kathy Zimmerman mixes cable motifs to create a winning Aran look".

This book features projects for every style and skill level, including pullovers and cardigans in shapes from fitted to boxy. There are also flattering and fashion-forward cables and colorwork, beautiful openwork mesh and lace that are perfect for layering, and lengths ranging from cropped to tunics. These modern and wearable creations are a sure bet to become wardrobe staples. Please call us now to reserve your copy and we will honor requests to autograph and personalize...

*** A SPRING THING AT KATHY'S KREATIONS ***

Join Kathy Zimmerman for a day-long event at Kathy's Kreations on **Saturday, May 16, 2015!** Kathy will present techniques for working pattern stitches based upon a multiple of 3 – textured patterns in the 3-hour morning session, and colorwork patterns in the 3-hour afternoon session. The student will have a "hands on" opportunity to knit samples of each, and learn new skills such as central double decreases, multiple stitches from one stitch, broken stripes, working multiple increases and decreases, slip-stitch knitting and much more. Learn to place a bit of texture, a band or a panel of a pattern into an unadorned sweater or accessory to create your own "original". Registration fee is \$35 per session. Early bird registration before March 31, 2015 is \$60 for both, with early-bird registration for both sessions including a light lunch. Space is limited, so please reserve early. For additional details, please contact Kathy at 724-238-9320 or e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com

*** DECEMBER 2014 DREAM CLUB ***

In September, we introduced Dream Club, a monthly yarn club that is brought to you by DREAM IN COLOR YARNS. Each month features a pairing of a unique hand-dyed colorway with a pattern that will showcase that month's yarn. The projects all use a single skein, some in special yardage put-ups exclusively for these designs. New project kits will arrive during the first week of every month through February 2015, all spun and hand-dyed in the USA. This exclusive event is only available through participating local yarn shops like Kathy's Kreations. This month's yarn and colorway are positively stunning!

The yarn selection is "Classy with Nylon", an exquisite blend of 75% superwash merino / 25% nylon with a refined twist, which makes this an exceptional choice. The special put-up for this offering is 130 grams / 340 yards. In addition to the standard knitting pattern, for the first time, we are offering a crochet option! Melissa Leapman has created two beautiful designs, "Alexandra" (knit, shown lower right) and "Andrea" (crochet, shown page 8). Both designs are gorgeous cowls that look stunning in the greens, blues, golds and purples found in the December 2014 shade. Kits sell for \$39.00.

We have designated "Dream Club" as one of our Friday knit along projects. If you can't make it to our Friday knit alongs, please keep up to date with postings to our "We Love Kathy's" group. There is also a "Dream Club" group on Ravelry with projects and special information. Let the knitting fun continue...



*** THE SPECIAL THING ABOUT KNITTING ***

A recent editorial in *Creative Knitting* magazine beckons us to "Go within, reflect, knit; rep from *". Editor Kara Gott Warner writes: "Knitting is one of those portable kinds of passions. It goes with you everywhere, and it has the amazing ability to instantly put a smile on your face the moment you cast on.

Learning new stitches and being inspired are what keeps us engaged, but there's something to be said about the simple act of picking up our needles and experiencing the yarn as it glides through our fingers.

We witness something a little magical when we connect to the rhythmic motion of our hands while we knit, along with the tactile connection of yarn on our needles. This is what keeps us engaged for hours on end.

Those are the magical moments I personally want more of. It's also comforting to know that there's a little treasure waiting inside our knitting bag even on those days when you don't find the time to knit. It's just nice to know it's there... waiting. So, just for today, put those 'should-do's' aside, pick up your needles, and knit for the sake of it. Do what you love first. The rest can wait for just a little while".

And in the November 28, 2014 edition of *Knitting Daily*, editor Kathleen Cubley lists her reasons that she is thankful for knitting:

- It fills my life with color.
- It encourages my creativity.
- It keeps my hands busy.
- It introduces me to new people who share my love for the craft.
- It loves to travel.
- It likes the same TV shows that I like.
- It keeps the same schedule as I do; if I want to knit in the middle of the night, it's there for me.
- It likes to change bags as much as I do!
- It challenges me.
- It keeps me company, even when I am cranky.

*** CAPS FOR KIDS ***

Kathy's Kreations assists the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild with their annual Caps For Kids program. The guild collects clean, new handknit or crocheted cold-weather items like hats, mittens, scarves, slippers, and gloves for distribution to needy area children at Thanksgiving and in early December. A total of 139 items were distributed through the Ligonier Valley Service Unit of the Salvation Army and other area agencies in 2014. Kathy's Kreations will gladly accept donations on behalf of the guild throughout the year...

*** KNITTING CLASS WITH JEANNE OSMAN ***

A pleated ruffle, horizontal braids, a beaded overlay, and textured eyelets make the "Faberge Shawl" an interesting knit (shown lower right). Learn to create this beautiful wrap with instructor Jeanne Osman on **Saturday, January 17, 2015, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**. Choose from two sizes -- kerchief with a 38" wingspan or shawl 56" wingspan (in parentheses). Yarn requirements for students to bring: 200 (290) yards fingering weight yarn in the ruffle color and 220 (340) yards fingering weight yarn in background color; 174 (312) size 6 seed beads; US size 6 (4.00 mm) and US size 5 (3.75 mm) circular knitting needles in 29-32" length; tiny crochet hook for adding beads (1.0 mm) and stitch markers. Class materials will be available for purchase prior to class. Registration fee is \$20.00 plus \$6.50 for Ravelry Pro pattern download. For details, call Kathy's Kreations at (724)238-9320 or e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com





*** CHRISTMAS ON THE RANCH ***

'Twas the night before Christmas & out on the ranch
The pond was froze over & so was the branch.
The snow was piled up belly-deep to a mule.
The kids were all home on vacation from school,
And happier young folks you never did see--
Just all sprawled around a-watchin TV.
Then suddenly, some time around 8 o'clock,
There came a surprise that gave them quite a shock!
The power went off, the TV went dead!
When Grandpa came in from out in the shed
With an armload of wood, the house was all dark.
"Just what I expected" they heard him remark.
"Them power line wires must be down from the snow.
Seems sorter like times on the ranch long ago".
"I'll hunt up some candles," said Mom. "with their light,
And the fireplace, I reckon we'll make out all right".
The teen-agers all seemed enveloped in gloom.
Then Grandpa came back from a trip to his room.
Uncased his old fiddle & started to play
That old Christmas song about bells on a sleigh.
Mom started to sing, and first thing they knew
Both Pop and the kids were all singing it, too.
They sang Christmas carols, they sang "Holy Night",
Their eyes all a-shine in the ruddy firelight.
They played some charades Mom recalled from her youth,
And Pop read a passage from God's Book of Truth.
They stayed up till midnight -- and, would you believe,
The youngsters agreed 'twas a fine Christmas Eve.
Grandpa rose early, some time before dawn;
And when the kids wakened, the power was on.
"The power company sure got the line repaired quick",
Said Grandpa -- and no one suspected his trick.
Last night, for the sake of some old-fashioned fun,
He had pulled the main switch -- the old Son-of-a-Gun!
(Anonymous -- gleaned from the Internet)

*** WHY DO A SWATCH? ***

A knitting teacher once commented when I balked at knitting a gauge swatch: "Oh, you will knit a swatch. It may have two sleeves and buttonbands, but you'll knit a swatch".

Yarn shop owners and knitting teachers know the importance of swatching for successful projects. When knitting in the round, you should knit your swatch in the round and use the yarn in the color you are planning to use.

Your gauge will be different if you knit with single point needles, especially in stockinette stitch. The purl side may be much looser than if you knit on circular or double-pointed needles. The gauge of different colors of the same yarn may also vary due to the dyes. To be certain, swatch in the same yarn you will use with the same needles you will use.

A good tip is to buy enough yarn to first make a baby hat to donate to charity or give as a gift. This will give you a chance to practice the stitch pattern and make sure your gauge remains consistent over the length of your project. (Kraemer Yarns newsletter November 2011)

WHERE'S KATHY? ***

Sunday, December 7, 2014 Ligonier Merchant's Townwide Open House 12 noon - 4 pm
Stop in and bring your stitching -- join Kathy & Linda for a knit-along and holiday shopping!

January 24 & 25, 2015 Ligonier Ice Fest

March 27-29, 2015 11th Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival There is a new bigger-space location and a later date for next year's Festival. The 2015 Festival will be held at the Westin Pittsburgh located at the downtown Convention Center from Friday, March 27 through Sunday, March 29, 2015. You can find us there in large corner booth #16 near the main registration entrance. We would appreciate your input on the brands and products that you would like us to have on hand in our booth. Save the dates!

Thursday, April 23, 2015 Kathy's Kreations Day at Kraemer Yarns & Textiles Join us for a tour of an operating textile mill and see how yarn is made!

May 16, 2015 A Spring Thing at Kathy's Kreations

July 31 - August 9, 2015 Steel Valley Yarn Crawl

*** STEEL VALLEY YARN CRAWL BONUS PROMOTION ***

We hope that you held onto your 2014 Steel Valley Yarn Crawl tote bags. Remember that we told you there would be a surprise after the first of the year? Kathy's Kreations is sponsoring a special event. Simply bring in your Yarn Crawl tote on **any Saturday during January 2015** to receive **10% off** as much regularly-priced merchandise that you can fit into your bag (and that's a big tote!). This offer does not apply to clearance items, but we will have plenty of those available on our sale table, too...

*** UPCOMING KNIT ALONGS (KAL) ***

For those of us who have been doing the KALs all year, we have a jump on our gift list. Working on and completing one project or more a month is the perfect solution to insuring stress-free holiday stitching. Our projects have included cowls, scarves, mitts, socks, and more. Our knit-alongs will continue **every Friday throughout 2015**, so make it your New Year's resolution to join us either in person or on our Ravelry group, We Love Kathy's. If you are unable to come in person, please contact us to mail order Dream Club kits or supplies so that you can work along with us. December's knit along is the Dream Club cowl project in either knit or crochet, along with finishing works in progress and holiday gifts.

There's something about a buttery-soft tweed, with its contrasting slubs of color and rustic, earthy stitch texture, that demands attention in the colder seasons. A gorgeous tweed conducts the symphony of Winter better than any other yarn. We are pleased to announce that January's knit along will be the next Progressive Needles KAL with Michelle Hunter. Beginning on January 1, 2015, Michelle will slowly release the pattern for *Endgame* -- a gorgeous cabled scarf, worked with HiKOO tweed "Kenzie" yarn. Please check in at www.knitpurlhunter.com on New Year's Day after 9 am Eastern time. This mystery KAL will introduce new stitch patterns and techniques that are all supported with FREE video instruction. We have all 10 new shades of "Kenzie" available in stock (shown lower right). Materials for the project include 3 or 4 skeins "Kenzie" in a single colorway; 10 yards waste yarn in a similar gauge and contrasting color; US size 6 (4 mm) knitting needles, US 7 knitting needles or size to get gauge of 5 sts = 1", a cable needle and tapestry needle. The scarf will measure approximately 6.5" wide and your choice of 56" or 70" long.

Several attendees from our 2014 Fall Fling asked about getting together to work on completing the Navajo knitting project begun during the retreat. Those who wish may work on this technique. Of course, we will also be working on the January Dream Club project as well. Knitter's choice!

Not working on our KALs? You are welcome to come -- simply bring any knit or crochet project purchased at Kathy's Kreations and join the group (it's free!)





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

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crochet and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Next meeting dates are Monday evenings **December 1, 2014** and **January 5, 2015; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, December 9, 2014 and January 13, 2015; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp) *****

Join us for an evening of stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead in case of cancellation...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, December 19, 2014 and January 16, 2015; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm *****

Join us for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome!

*****SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT December 13, 2014 & January 10, 2015; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm *****

Come sit 'n knit! Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Open to all skill levels...

***** BUILDING BLOCKS CLASS SERIES WITH LISA CARNAHAN *****

Lisa Carnahan is teaching a series of classes based upon Michelle Hunter's latest book, "Building In Color". Our next session will be held **Saturday, December 20, 2014, 10 am - 12 noon**. The class topic is "Tuck Stitch", a dropped stitch technique used to create many lovely designs. Intentionally dropping and unraveling a stitch may seem daunting at first, but have no fear -- Lisa will have you picking up stitches like a pro! A make-up class for "Building In Color" is scheduled for **Saturday, January 17, 2015, 10 am - 12 noon**. Finishing class is slated for **Saturday, February 21, 2015, 10 am - 12 noon**. Fee is \$10 plus purchase of project yarn and a one-time purchase of the "Building In Color" book by Michelle Hunter.

***** DECEMBER KNIT ALONG (KAL) *****

Let us help you remain calm in this otherwise chaotic holiday season. Stop by **EVERY Friday in December from 10 am - 2 pm** (rsvp please) to work on our newest KALs in a safe haven of yarn and warmth and your stitching firends to cheer you on -- your choice of knit "Alexandra" or crochet "Andrea" (shown upper left) Dream Club cowl projects by Melissa Leapman (see page 4). Not working on the KALs? You are still welcome to come -- simply bring any knit or crochet project purchased at Kathy's Kreations and join the group (free!). It's a great way to work on secret holiday gifts...

***** KNITTING CLASS WITH JEANNE OSMAN *****

Join instructor Jeanne Osman for "**Finishing School**" on **Saturday, December 6, 2014 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**. The class will include information on finishing details which will give your handknits a professional-looking appearance. Students may bring a project to class in need of finishing and/or two 4" square stockinette swatches for practicing techniques. Students need to bring a tapestry needle and scissors to class. Class materials will be available for purchase prior to class. Registration fee is \$20.00. For details, call Kathy's Kreations at (724)238-9320 or e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. We would be glad to do a specific class topic for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 34 years !

Celebrate family and friends this holiday season. And, most of all, have fun. Ready... set... make some merry! **KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!** Kathy