



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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DECEMBER 2016 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

'Tis the season of comfort and joy. For knitters and crocheters, making things is very comforting. We find joy in creating gifts for friends and family. The feel of fiber in our hands, the interplay of colors we've selected, the repetitive rhythm of needles and hook -- it's all so relaxing and fulfilling at this hectic time of year.

Santa is just about ready, but are you? Make your list, check it twice, and stop in. There is still time to make your handknit Christmas holiday a reality. Our shelves are stocked with the very latest in yarns, ideas and the very best tools and gadgets to make the creative process more enjoyable. If you're looking for a comforting project, we have a shop filled with possibilities and inspiration will greet you at the door. We've got gift ideas, sweaters, accessories, chevrons, cables and enough color to brighten even the darkest winter days.

So what are the hottest trends to explore in the Yarniverse this season? It's time to get cozy. Add a dash of panache to your winter wardrobe with a swifty, stylish poncho. It's one of the season's prominent fashion trends, and we are seeing unconventional shapes with unexpected construction in both knit and crochet. Headbands are very chic head gear, especially in textured and cable patterns. Giant stitches, super bulky yarns and big needles are everywhere (including here!) -- for scarves, mitts, hats, and throws.

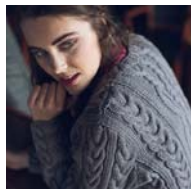
Numerous studies have shown that knitting can relieve stress, anxiety and depression. It can boost memory power, diminish cognitive diseases and improve motor function. Best of all, when we knit, we gain a sense of pride and accomplishment, which can boost our self-confidence. If we make things for others, we are rewarded with a feeling of satisfaction and belonging, knowing that our work will be cherished. To quote *Vogue Knitting* editor Trisha Malcolm: "Enjoy your holiday knitting, knowing the practice of moving yarn and needles is really good for you." We are celebrating that sentiment with one of our favorite yarn companies' fibers...

"HAPPY HANDMADE HOLIDAYS!"
10% off all purchases of in-stock,
regularly-priced BERROCO YARNS
during December 2016
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday through Saturday

We will be open 12 noon - 5:00 pm Sunday, December 4, 2016
for Ligonier Merchants' Town-Wide Open House

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX
Private knitting and crocheting lessons
Instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates available
Mail orders available -- no order too small!
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e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website <http://www.kathys-kreations.com>



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

It seems that, in the blink of an eye almost, the holiday season is once again upon us. This holiday season, delight those on your list with special holiday gifts. Oh, what fun it is to work on projects like hats, mittens, scarves or cowls! If you need a project that will work up in a hurry, we can help. We've got toasty accessories that you can complete in a weekend or less. Not enough time before the holidays? Plan ahead for afterwards, since winter is the time for serious knitting and crocheting, the time to enjoy long hours with your needles, and the time to create beautiful garments, often with new techniques and fibers. Our friend Eleanor takes yarn from her stash and idea suggestions to her family's holiday gathering. She lets each family member pick a yarn that they would like for a handknit item within the New Year. Eleanor also asks them to trace their hands and feet so that she will know the exact measurements needed for socks and mittens. It's a fun tradition and makes for less deadline stress. Let's celebrate another season of stitching with the following...

INTERWEAVE KNITS is a place where the past meets the present, where we pause, reflect, and create memories through an ancient craft. The Winter 2017 issue features 18 refined designs for real life (\$7.99). Editor Meghan Babin writes: "Winter is a nostalgic time, evoking images from the past. Regardless of your age, the first snow of the season is magical, and, for a knitter, so is casting on the first project of our season -- the knitter's season. In this issue, we've awakened that feeling of nostalgia with designs and products that are alluring and eternal". Kathy was delighted to have an Aran sweater featured not only in the "Whiskey & Wool" fashion story of this issue, but also prominently on *Knitting Daily* (photo upper left): "An original cable design runs up the center (back and front) of the *Galway Pullover*. This polished pullover creates a chic, professorial look that would grace a classroom -- or anywhere you might go on a casual winter day". We're enchanted by the rugged and refined knits included in this collection. Get cozy with cabled stitches and natural fibers -- be prepared to get excited for a season of knitting!

We've received two issues of *Knit Simple* since our last newsletter -- twice the fun! The Holiday 2016 issue (\$6.99) celebrates 35 great knits for holiday giving, with a focus on home for the holidays decor in pretty pastels and a poncho trend alert. Make it merry with cowls, hats, mitts and more -- this issue is filled with easy-knit and crochet ideas for the winter holidays and beyond! There are six "Over The Top" poncho styles, suitable for all skill levels. These generous silhouettes, knit with bulky yarns, are warm enough to use instead of a coat.

The Winter 2016 issue (\$6.99) has just arrived and is filled with fast and fun winter essentials to knit in a weekend, which also makes it just in time for last-minute gift ideas, too! There are 30+ toasty knits (including classic vests for men), no-fear Fair Isle caps with step-by-step instructions, and black & white decorating trends with super chunky yarns. Bundle up -- baby, it's cold outside!

Vogue Knitting Holiday 2016 has dubbed the fast, fun, fabulous super bulky knitting trend "The Big Easy" (\$7.99, shown right). Our favorite article of this issue is about what's new in yarn construction. Advances in fiber production as well as manufacturing processes have led to all sorts of new ways to build yarn -- from nubby spun to chunky chainette, this article is worth the read. Festive times call for festive wraps -- this collection of elegant designs is made for seasonal soirees and big nights out. Sweaters are back as a fashion statement, evidenced by the retro classic cardigans exploring vintage style...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Who's on your list? Gifts -- maybe it's meant for you and not the gift you intended after all. Or maybe you will need to make another one for yourself. Need a project idea? We've got the perfect solution for a gift for your hair stylist, dog groomer, favorite neighbor, or any one on your holiday list PLUS one for you! One of the hottest accessory trends this season is the "wrap around". Our choice for quick knitting is BERROCO YARNS *Quinoa* (shown right). Thick yarns make fast work of already simple stitch patterns. Just one ball of sparkly BERROCO "Brio" (\$16.50, 100 grams, 109 yards, 49% wool / 48% acrylic / 3% other, CYCA #6) makes two headbands-- one to give, one for you. Each brilliantly dyed colorway of this thick-and-thin super bulky blend is infused with subtle glittering metallic strands that are soft to the touch. There is still time to make your hand-knit Christmas a reality, even when it is coming down to the last minute. We have ideas and models for worsted and chunky weight yarn headbands, too. Kathy test knit *Quinoa* and confirmed that it is an easy "under 3 hours" project. And, yes, made one for herself, too!



LANG YARNS "Fatto a Mano 236" collection (\$18.50) is full of fresh styles that are knit in gorgeous yarns that will enhance your winter wardrobe. Inside, there are over 60 flattering top fashion designs that range from simple beginner patterns to more complicated, with stunning color photography, schematics and charts. The projects are amazing and your own personal style can shine with these dazzling garments...

Color your way across FRANKLIN HABIT's whimsical vision of a world of yarn with *I Dream of Yarn* (\$9.95, soft cover), a coloring book for knitters and crocheters. Enter a place where yarn spins a dreamy land, where coloring leads to reveries, and creative expression results in bliss. Franklin Habit will be a featured instructor at the 2017 Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival -- details at www.pghknitandcrochet.com for a list of schedule and classes. Look for us in booths 401 & 402...

ARTBIN Yarn Drums (\$23.50) are a wonderful way to carry and organize your project. This handy duffle-style canvas case has slots at the top to feed up to four yarns at a time from the convenient zippered compartment. The slots are wide enough to allow you to slide your WIP inside the bag and feed yarn through the slots, yet remove the working yarns when needed. It comes with two handles -- you may use it as a shoulder tote or carry it as a traditional bag by hand. The case is roomy, holding 4 - 6 skeins easily, and the colors are bright and cheerful...

A sumptuous new supply of Madelinetosh yarns arrived, but is selling out fast! The beauty of each stunning hank is that each one is a unique work of art. MADELINETOSH "Tosh Sock" (\$25.95, 100 grams, 395 yards, 100% superwash merino, CYCA #2) is squishy soft in luscious glazed solid colorways. "Merino Light" (\$23.50, 100 grams, 420 yards, 100% superwash merino wool) is a single-ply fingering yarn with excellent stitch definition. Wouldn't you like some under your Christmas tree?



And, last but not least, we've got lots of stocking stuffers like ADDI LOVE heart-shaped locking stitch markers (\$10.50, shown left); FIBER TO FASHION Needle Keepers (\$8.50); Lo-Lo and Lo-Lo To Go (\$8.50 - \$14.50); interchangeable needle tips and cords from CHIAGOO and KNITTER'S PRIDE (price varies with product); SUSAN BATES Digital Row Counter (\$5.50); PONY wool comb (\$3.50); SOCK DOCTOR key rings with handy reminder of Kitchener Stitch (\$8.50); and if all else fails, we now have reloadable KATHY'S KREATIONS gift cards!

*** OUR KNITTING MUSES ***

Our gratitude to Andrea Springer for sharing excerpts from her knitting column, *The Knitting Savant*, from the November/December issue of *The Pennsylvania and WV Register/Thanks*, Andrea! You are all cordially invited to join our Kathy's Kreations knitting "muses" (see page 8 for times when our groups meet).

"Nothing triggers the desire to knit quite like a cold snap. The hustle and flow of summer projects, vacations and family activities have demanded our attention. Then, out of nowhere, there's a subtle shift of light and temperature, and we yearn again for our needles and big piles of yarn. Ready to create a new season of projects, we stock our stash, gathering what we'll need to get us through, and start casting on stitches.

But where do we go when our creative bucket is empty? ... Thank heavens for fellow knitters! ... Knitting is a solitary activity by definition, but the energy and connection that's generated when a group of knitters get together can multiply creativity exponentially, not just around the table but for weeks after. A good knitting group is part class time, part show and tell, part pep rally, part recipe swap, part group therapy session; with a generous dose of belly laughs and a few "Double Dog" dare projects for good measure. Food is a nice touch, but not as important as being able to add another chair around the table for a new knitter. It's 'community' in the best sense of the term.

If you're lucky in your knitting journey, you'll spend time with 'muses' who inspire you to jump off creative cliffs with the things you'll make and who'll carry you along when you've failed to grow wings on your way down... You'll be glad you did!"

--- Andrea Springer blogs at www.knitting savant.com where she helps folks remember that they have everything they need to be successful in knitting and in life. You can share comments or ideas with her at andrea@knittingsavant.com or follow Knitting Savant on Facebook and Twitter

*** COMING SOON ***

Although the wild popularity of the musical *Hamilton* might have been hard to predict, the passion and creativity of its fans comes as no surprise. Our friends at DREAM IN COLOR yarns have developed twelve new colorways based on this musical which should be arriving near the New Year. We will be carrying all colorways in "Jilly with Cashmere" and "Classy with Cashmere" bases. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for the arrival date...

*** DECEMBER KNIT-ALONG ***

Several of us are still working on November's KAL "Changing Light" shawl and have decided to continue working on that project after the holidays in January. In the meantime, our December knit-along features two of Kathy's original designs that were taught at KNITTREAT 2016, "Marvelous Mitts" and "Marvelous Mitts Too".

Shown on page 8, upper left, easy-to-knit "Marvelous Mitts" mitts will keep you cozy, while letting fingers free for texting, driving, or typing on the computer! Worked flat with KRAEMER YARNS bulky weight "Alpaca Handknitting Yarn", these mitts work up quickly and the cable pattern provides visual interest and textural appeal. They are also a wonderful, do-able gift idea! "Marvelous Mitts Too" (shown left) are cabled mittens featuring a central open cable bordered by 2X2 ribs, a reverse stockinette palm, and stockinette thumbs.

Worked circularly with KRAEMER YARNS rustic worsted weight "Naturally Nazareth" yarn using a variety of techniques, these mittens will keep your hands cozy on the coldest days.

We hope that you will join us every Friday in December here at Kathy's Kreations from 10 am - 2 pm for this group project, the continuation of previous KALs, or any other works in progress purchased here. If you can't join us in person, please follow us on the December shop thread at "We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry...



*** VINA'S WALKING THE DOG HAT & COWLABUNGA SET ***

Thanks to our friend Vina McLeod Rudolph for sharing her easy-to-make bulky knit super warm textured hat and crossover cowl. Vina wears this when walking her dog, Gryffinn. She prefers to use a provisional crochet cast on with main color for a decorative edge.



HAT (worked circularly)

Finished size: will fit 20" - 22" head circumference

Materials: approx. 90 yards of super bulky yarn (CYCA #6); US size 15 double-pointed (dpns) and circular knitting needle 16" length; stitch marker

Suggested Yarns: KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection Super Bulky"; BERROCO "Macro"; BROWN SHEEP "Burly Spun"

Gauge: approx 2-1/2 sts / 4 rounds = 1" in seed stitch

Directions: With size US 15 circular needle and cast on method of choice, cast on 48 stitches. Join, being careful not to twist, place marker for beginning of round.

Round 1: *Knit 1, purl 2; repeat from * to end.

Repeat round 1 until piece measures 2", inc 2 stitches evenly spaced on last round -- 50 stitches.

Seed stitch (over an even number of stitches, multiple of 2)

Round 1: *Knit 1, purl 1; repeat from * around.

Round 2: *Purl 1, knit 1; repeat from * around.

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 until piece measures 7" or desired length to crown.

Crown Shaping (pattern changes to stockinette; switch to dpns when stitches become tight)

Round 1: *K2tog (knit 2 stitches together), knit 8; repeat from * around.

Round 2: Knit.

Round 3: *K2tog, knit 7; repeat from * around.

Round 4: Knit.

Round 5: *K2tog, knit 6; repeat from * around.

Round 6: Knit.

Round 7: *K2tog, knit 5; repeat from * around.

Round 8: *K2tog, knit 4; repeat from * around.

Round 9: *K2tog, knit 3; repeat from * around.

Round 10: *K2tog, knit 2; repeat from * around.

Round 11: *K2tog, knit 1; repeat from * around.

Round 12: K2tog around.

Cut yarn, leaving a 6" tail. Draw tail through remaining stitches and pull up tightly. Weave in ends.

CROSSOVER COWLABUNGA (worked flat, back & forth)

Finished measurement before crossover: 7-1/2" wide X 30" long

Materials: approx. 90 yards of super bulky yarn (CYCA #6); US size 15 knitting needle; three 1" buttons; tapestry needle

Suggested Yarns: KRAEMER YARNS Perfection Super Bulky; BERROCO Macro;

Gauge: approx 2-1/2 sts / 4 rows = 1" in seed stitch

Seed Stitch (multiple of 2 + 1, odd number of stitches)

Row 1: Knit 1; *purl 1, knit 1; repeat from * to end.

Repeat this row for pattern.

Directions: With US 15 needles & cast on method of choice, cast on 19 stitches. Work in seed stitch until piece measures 30". Bind off all stitches. Overlap bound off edge to side of piece and sew in place (bind off edge is to the right side of the cast on edge). Sew buttons in place as shown in photo.

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*** A SPECIAL E-MAIL FROM MICHELLE HUNTER ***



'Twas The Knitter's Night Before Christmas
(adapted from the poem by Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas and I was still knitting
The family was sleeping and there I was sitting;
The handknit stockings were hung by the chimney with care
Hope no one noticed the cupboards were bare.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of mittens danced in their heads;
Still dressed in old sweats, yarn in my lap,
I hurried to finish the last knitted cap.

When out from the closet there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter.
Away to the storage I flew like a flash,
Threw open the door and confronted my stash.

The yarn on the floor was like new-fallen snow.
Better shove it in quick so the husband won't know.
When what to my bloodshot eyes should appear
But the Knitting Fairy who said, "Have no fear!"

What a quick little knitter, so lively and fast,
She did the knitting while all I did was cast.
More rapid than eagles her stitches they came,
Ske knitted, she purled and called the yarn by name:

"On, Trekking! On, HiKoo! On Noro! On, Bliss!
On, Regia! On, Opal! Not one skein was missed.
To the top of the stash! Get every last ball!
We can't give a gift purchased at the mall!"

Her needles how they sparkled! Her stitches just right!
We knitted together all through the night.
Hats, scarves, shawls, socks and a sweater;
My knitting projects had never looked better!

She spoke not a word, head bent over her work,
And knit all the yarn with her magical "circ".
My projects were done, they were perfectly sized,
Each one an heirloom sure to be prized!

She picked up her needles and gave me a wink,
The fairy dust flew, she was gone in a blink.
But I heard her exclaim as she darted from sight,
"HAPPY KNITTING TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

*** FOREVER THANKFUL ***

Thanks to Sharon Greve for allowing us to re-print and share her "The Dropped Stitch" column from the November - December 2016 issue of *The Pennsylvania and WV Register*. We are thankful to you, Sharon!



"When it comes to knitting, I am forever thankful. I appreciate knowing how to make a special gift not only for family and friends but for those strangers through various charities. It's fascinating how a small amount of yarn and time can create simple items that can bring joy to all ages.

I am grateful for the many friendships formed over the years through a knitting guild. Like Eleanor Roosevelt who carried her knitting bag everywhere she went, I've had many friendly conversations in airports and other public places with knitters from around the world. Sometimes we could converse and other times the knitting projects spoke for us.

Knitting has been around for thousands of years -- even found in the tombs of pharaohs. Most of the early knitters were men. Knitting was an occupation and source of income rather than a leisure activity. It took a long time for knitted fabric to replace woven fabric. Knitting guilds were founded in Paris in 1527. In October of 1591 children and young people were taught the art of hand-knitting in English knitting schools.

By the end of the 16th century, hand-knitting was firmly established across the whole of Europe. Guilds of knitters were formed on the continent but not in Britain. Potential Master Knitters (limited to men) studied for three years to learn their craft, plus another three years spent as journeymen. The final masterpiece was a carpet, a pair of knitted ecclesiastical gloves or an elaborate silk waistcoat.

The earliest written knitting pattern (1655) was a pair of stockings with turned heels, knitted on four needles. Machine knitting had a significant effect on the hand-knitting industry nearly 200 years after being invented in 1598 in England.

At last in 1699 poor women and children were taught knitting along with spinning and lace making in London workhouse schools to earn their keep. By 1700 knitting had become the labor of the poor, rather than the occupation of the Master Craftsmen.

Today knitting supplements the incomes of many retired persons, single parents, college students, and homeless people to name a few. Well-known design knitter and crocheter Yumiko Alexander shares her thankfulness:

"Knitting and crochet have made my life in the United States very beautiful. When I moved here from Japan, my English was limited and everything was new to me. Although the language and culture in the United States and Japan are very different, knitting and crochet have remained a constant in my life. I have enjoyed communicating with people and expressing myself through my design work, and I have met many wonderful friends through knitting and crochet."

Today women and men knitters carry on the tradition of adding to their family's income through bazaars, custom orders, gift shops, consignments, etc. As a leisure time activity, knitting enriches our lives by reducing stress, challenging our mental and physical skills, as well as building self-confidence. Yes, each time I knit, I'm *forever thankful* for those unknown knitters who have shared the legacy we all have come to love. We can only thank them by carrying on a cherished tradition and copying patterns that have existed for thousands of years.

"Teach me to knit and I'll remember you forever."

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*** SPRING BREAK REGISTRATION ***

Registration for Spring Break with instructor Mary Lee Clark April 21-23, 2017 is now open (Enchantment Shawl & Colorwork Techniques). Flyers are available in the shop or request one by e-mail to kathy@kathys-kreations.com



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

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crocheting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate in Greensburg, PA. Next meeting dates are Monday evenings **December 5, 2016 and January 9, 2017; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

***** "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesdays, December 13, 2016 and January 10, 2017; 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join us for stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome! Please call ahead to rsvp in case there has been a scheduling change...

***** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT December 10, 2016 and January 14, 2017; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please) *****

Come sit 'n knit! We do much more than just knit -- we share conversations, ideas, favorite patterns, and knitting tricks. Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship and stitching for projects purchased here. Open to all skill levels...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, December 16, 2016 and January 21, 2017; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm *****

Come in for the yarn and leave with friendships! Join our "knitting community" for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Whether this is your first project or your hundredth, this is the place for you to learn, grow and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters just like you. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. All skill levels welcome!

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

Stop by on Fridays in December from **10 am - 2 pm** (rsvp please) to work on our newest KALs with your stitching friends to cheer you on. This month, we feature your choice of "Marvelous Mitts" (shown upper left), or "Marvelous Mitts Too" (shown page 4), original designs by Kathy Zimmerman recently taught at Knittreat 2016 -- as well as WIPs from previous KALs. 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!). Follow us on "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group December 2016 thread...

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. Learning to knit or correcting mistakes are not the only reasons to have a one-on-one tutoring lesson. Learn new techniques like lace or short rows, or get help with a pattern before starting -- our instructors can do it all! Additional group classes are forming -- ask us for details. 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 more than 36 years !

- PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL March 24-26, 2017; save the date NOW. Kathy will be in Market booths 401 & 402 in Hall C, 2nd floor, David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Michelle Hunter will be joining us for a book signing on Saturday March 26, 2017, at lunch break
- Ligonier Ice Fest Friday & Saturday, January 21-22, 2017. Details next time!

As we head down the homestretch to the holidays, may you find joy in your craft as you share that comfort with your friends and family during this festive season. Stop in and discover new ideas, inspiration and gifting made easy. Let's make it a handknit holiday!
KEEP STITCHING~ Kathy