



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
DECEMBER 2019 UPDATE

Dear Stitchers,

Anticipation hangs in the air, and the wide-eyed child in all of us eagerly awaits the "most wonderful time of the year." The winter holidays bring the opportunity to open your imagination to create. Make the season meaningful by making it handmade! We're grateful to be the place you look to for inspiration and thoughtful gifts to make -- the ones that bring an enduring sense of appreciation from those who receive them. When you give a gift made with your own hands, you're giving something made with love and care as you labor over every stitch. It's time to finalize your checklist, get the gift gathering underway, and revel in the things that make your spirit bright.

Looking for something soft, warm and giftable? Textured hats adorned with fluffy pompoms and cozy, colorful socks continue to be our most popular projects, with shawls and scarves running very closely behind. At Kathy's Kreations, we'll help you find that "something special" project with all the trimmings for everyone on your list, from warm cabled mittens to festive winter sweaters, from colorful cowls to stockings to hang by the fireplace, and from toasty slippers to cute plush toys. Stay snug, comfy, and holiday ready with layer upon layer of modern classic style from head to toe and throughout your home.

The holidays begin here -- with sticks and string! We hope that you'll enjoy our latest collection of "more & merrier" winter favorites to help outsmart the weather...

TURN UP THE COZY!

10% off all purchases of in-stock, regularly-priced
100% wool yarns (all weights) throughout December 2019

STORE HOURS

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday;
closed most Sundays

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE Sunday, December 8, 2019 open 12 noon - 5:00 pm
Closed December 25 and January 1

Open 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Christmas Eve and New Years' Eve

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!

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

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(Kathy's Kreations; Ligonier, PA)

"We Love Kathy's" on Ravelry

#kathyknitz on Instagram

Find us at our Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce Member Page



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





*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

It's getting cold outside here in the Laurel Highlands! Snowflakes are starting to fly, and the ski slopes have opened earlier than usual. Winter has us craving the snuggly caress of knit afghans, sweaters, and hats. We are fascinated by rich textures like cables and lightweight chunky yarns that evoke a sense of comfort and joy. It's time to pull out our knitting needles and crochet hooks and stave off the bitter chill with some satisfying winter stitching. Stay warm and cozy with these great products for gift giving this holiday and beyond...

Join us in knitting the trendy AMBAH ADVENT 2019 KAL! Choose any of Ambah O'Brien's six yarn Advent-inspired designs like the *ADVENTuresome Wrap* (shown upper left), *ADVENTurous Wrap* or *ADVENTurer Wrap* (\$6.00 per each pattern available here as a Ravelry Pro download). This shawl was designed with a Yarn Advent Calendar in mind, to make the most of a daily mini-skein kit. There are so many possibilities -- add colors in randomly, arrange your minis in a gradient fade, or use a main color and alternate with mini-skeins. Simple garter stitch keeps this a mindless knit, while some fun shaping and regular color changes will keep you wanting to knit on. What adventure will you take with your Wrap?

DREAM IN COLOR has hand-dyed custom ADVENTuring KAL kits just for us, available with a full skein plus 24 minis in your choice of merino wool base yarns single-ply "Jilly" (\$75.50 mini kit plus \$24.50 full skein) or twist-plied "Smoochy" (\$97.50 mini kit plus \$26.50 full skein). Supplies are limited, but additional shipments are coming soon. We will also soon introduce "mystery" mini-skeins in sets of 24 from EMMA'S YARN with each skein individually wrapped in tissue paper to unwrap daily for a special surprise for yourself. Stay tuned for details...

Need to find a unique gift for a fellow knitter or crocheter? CLOVER presents its "Pattern Chart Marker Set" (\$16.50). This handy tool slips over your pattern chart and is held in place with an attached magnet. It moves easily to the next row as you work your pattern. You can also use it as a bookmark for books and magazines. It comes in a set of two keepers. Oh, yeah, you'll want to get a set of these for yourself, too...

New yarns and updated favorites have arrived from DRAGONFLY FIBERS. In addition to bright shades of "Traveller", "Valkryie", and "Pixie", a candy cane colorway is here in bases "Djinni" (\$34.50, 4.2 oz., 420 yards, 80% superwash merino / 10% cashmere / 10% nylon, CYCA #2, shown page 5 lower left) and "Dragon Sock" (\$26.50, 4 oz., 390 yards, 100% superwash merino, CYCA #2). Team Dragonfly applies deep, rich and sometimes crazy bright colors to their high quality fibers to appeal to the passionate knitter. "Djinni" is a super choice if you want the luxury of cashmere on a tightly-plied base with superior stitch definition. "Dragon Sock" is a super choice if you want soft, easier care merino that is unforgettable to wear...

Nothing says "comfort and joy" like a custom-fit pair of hand-knitted socks! Many customers tell us that socks are among the most-requested knit gifts from their families. Some even make special holiday gift socks for every member of their family to wear during their celebration. We have a couple of seasonal shades that are suited for the holidays as well as all winter long. DREAM IN COLOR Sock Club features a full skein plus mini-skein accent color for heels & toes inspired by cardinals in the snow (\$34.50, 420 yard skein plus 100 yard mini, 85% superwash merino / 15% nylon, CYCA #2, shown lower right)...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

At our request, designer Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS came up with a new hat pattern to showcase our large selection of snap-on McPORTER FARMS Faux Raccoon Pompoms (\$12.50). We're delighted with her new HT-036 *Mountain Top* hat pattern (\$5.00, shown upper right). Sized to fit an average adult, this cozy textured hat features garter ridge vertical ribs alternating with cable panels and a clever crown shaping. Lisa knit her hat with our PLYMOUTH YARNS "Encore Chunky" (\$6.95, 100 grams, 143 yards; 75% acrylic / 25% wool, CYCA #5) for easy care and quick affordable knitting. Two other new patterns from LISA KNITS include AC-046 *Cabled Keyhole Scarflet* and AC-047 *Mitered Pendant Necklace* (\$5.00 each). Both are fast knits and are just the ticket for last-minute gift projects. Necklace kits include beads and sufficient yarn to make the project for \$5.00 each while supplies last. An ideal stash buster, the scarflet is just the right size to tuck inside a coat to ward off winter's chill...



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Lisa Knits/KK

Your perfect hat project is calling! Hats keep you a little warmer on your daily commute and are perfect for challenging hair days -- the ultimate winter wonders! Our favorite patterns and the ones that are "most knit" by customers include KATHY ERHARD DESIGNS "Classic Ribbed Hat" (\$5.00, Aran weight, sized from child to adult), CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS "Mistake Stitch" (\$6.50, in worsted weight and chunky weight versions, average adult size, directions include matching scarf) and IRMIAN DESIGN "Lance Hat" (\$6.50, average adult size, in worsted and chunky weight versions). If you prefer stranded colorwork Fair Isle knitting, TIN CAN KNITS "Fleet" (\$6.95, Aran weight, sized from newborn to adult) is a colorful, cozy beanie. Add a "holly jolly" faux fur puff pom-pom for the "crowning" touch...

Need something a little special to slip into a stitcher's stocking this holiday season? Here are some great ideas for small gifts that all your fiber friends will love, or just some suggestions for little extras other people can get for you for the holidays (or your birthday).

- Measuring tape -- it never hurts to have more than one! You can keep one in each project bag or in the room of the house where knitting happens
- SUSAN BATES "Handi-Tool" (aka "cool tool") for picking up stitches and doing repairs
- LEE "Highlighter Tape" -- keep track of your pattern with this handy "on/off" tape
- KNITTER'S PRIDE "Knit Blockers" rust-resistant stainless steel pin tool
- Needle Keeper -- protect circular needle tips, joins and stitches
- Row counter -- you always need one for every project
- Stitch markers -- you never have enough & somehow they disappear into the furniture
- Cable needles -- these disappear too, ask about our new PRYM "Yoga" cable needle
- CLOVER Chibi tapestry finishing needles

Our October knit along featured the breath-taking *Audition Shawl* designed by Michelle "Knit Purl" Hunter. We are pleased to report that customer participation in this project far exceeded our expectations. Two new shades of HiKOO "Simplicity Spray" are here -- good greens and power purple (\$34.50 per cake, 200 grams, 456 yards, 58% merino superwash/28% acrylic/17% nylon, CYCA #3, shown upper left page 8). Many of our customers have stopped by with their finished projects and are starting their second, third and, in some cases, fourth shawl. The variations in colorways and creative color combinations are beautiful!



Congratulations to our customer and knitting friend Kathy Fiffick, one of SKACEL's Knit Along prize winners. Kathy's stunning shawl is shown at lower left. She knit her wrap with HiKOO "Simplicity Spray" in colorway girly and accent color "Simplicity" in gun metal gray. Kathy won an autographed copy of Michelle's book, *The Best of Knit Purl Hunter* -- good job!

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Kathy Fiffick



*** DECEMBER KNIT ALONG ***

Our December knitalong (KAL) features a colorful cozy cowl, *Morton*, by designer Cornelia Tuttle Hamilton (shown left). Knitting with two different yarn weights produces amazing texture in this comfy cowl! The slip stitch tweed piece is worked flat, then seamed. Select MANOS DEL URUGUAY "Alegria" and "Alegria Grande", "Wool Classica" and "Fino", DREAM IN COLOR "Classy" and "Smoochy" or your choice of any wonderful yarn combinations from our shelves and let's get started on this stunning piece with a woven look that's much easier to knit than it appears!

Join us for knitting/ crocheting every Friday during December 2019 at Kathy's Kreations from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for the group project, the continuation of previous KALs, or any other works in progress purchased here. If you can't join us in person, follow us on the Ravelry December 2019 shop thread at "We Love Kathy's" and like/follow us on Facebook at Kathy's Kreations Ligonier, PA...

*** UPCOMING KNITTING CLASSES (please call 724-238-9320 to register for all classes) ***

Our weekday knitting class series based on books by Michelle Hunter and taught by instructor Karen McCullough continue during this month. Take your knitting to the next level with new skills. *Building With Lace* is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 3, 2019; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm** and focuses on *Cables and Lace*. The delicate nature of lace is a beautiful contrast to the bold impact of cables, and in combination, these patterns form some of the most stunning designs in lace knitting. Class registration is \$20.00 for the class plus purchase of book and yarn from Kathy's Kreations. AND, improve your knitting skills one square at a time with *Building Blocks*, designed to help knitters navigate through major knitting techniques and principles. The recommended yarn is HiKOO "Simpliworsted", a lovely blend of superwash merino and premium acrylic/nylon that is very soft and durable. We continue the lessons by learning Simple Decreases. Depending on the method used to decrease, the new stitch will slant to the left or right. These two simple decreases are incorporated into the pattern learned in this session. The class is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 3, 2019, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**. Registration fee is \$15.00 plus purchase of book and yarn from Kathy's Kreations...

In our ongoing series of lace classes, students will master lace knitting one section at a time. Join our instructor Kathy Erhard as she demonstrates lace skills and work along to make your own gorgeous lace shawl as a wearable showcase of your skills (photo lower right). This month's class adds a geometric design to *Building With Lace*. Strategically placed increases and decreases form a circular motif that knitters will be especially proud to knit and to wear. The combination of a circular motif lace pattern within a rectangular shawl is truly eye-catching.

Students are using the gorgeous HiKoo by Skacel RYLIE (50% baby alpaca, 25% mulberry silk, 25% linen) yarn, so see Kathy Z for this yarn or a suitable substitute. Join us on **Saturday, December 7, 2019, from 9:00 am - 12 noon** at Kathy's Kreations. The class fee is \$20 per session. Please call us at 724-238-9320 to register.

Sign up for the **Christmas Ornament: Top-Down Mini Sock** class and learn how to knit a basic sock worked from the top down, from cuff to toe. Instructor Kathy Erhard will explain how to choose appropriate yarn, work the cast on so that your sock will fit over your heel, work a heel gusset without holes, and understand the Kitchener stitch. You will leave the class with all the skills required to make an adult-sized pair of socks that will hug your feet with comfort. Please choose



*** UPCOMING CLASSES, continued (call 724-238-9320 to register) ***

200 yards of worsted weight yarn from Kathy's Kreations in a light, solid color and bring US size 7 or 8 knitting needles. The Christmas ornament mini-sock is shown at right. Socks may be worked with two 16" circular needles, a set of five double-pointed needles, or try the latest in circular knitting, the new ADDI FlexiFlips. Skacel calls the ADDI FlexiFlips "an effortless new method of knitting socks."



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Kathy Erhard

Knitters who have never tried double-pointed needles will find instant success with this amazing innovation in knitting needles. You will also need a stitch marker and tapestry needle. Class will be held from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Registration fee is \$20 plus supplies. Please call 724-238-9320 to reserve your space...

Kathy Erhard has announced the upcoming classes for winter 2020:

January 18: morning - Building with Lace Nupps; afternoon - *Butterfly Shawl*

February 15: morning - Building with Lace pattern both sides; afternoon - *Peoplewear Socks*: toe-up unisex sock featuring Turkish cast on and Fleegle heel

March 14: morning - Building with Lace applied borders; afternoon - *Learn To Knit A Sweater Series*

The *Learn To Knit A Sweater* series will explore what you need to know in order to knit a sweater that fits, including how to measure to get your own personalized set of dimensions, how to choose the correct size of sweater to knit, how to choose yarn for the pattern, gauge swatching, and blocking techniques. Classes will begin in March with taking a look at yoke sweaters and continue in April. The class project is based on JOJI LOCATELLI's *Spector* pullover. Stay tuned for more info!

*** CHRISTMAS STITCHING SONG ***

This little diddy was written by Connie, adapted by us, and is sung to the tune of "Up On The Housetop":

Down at the yarn shop reindeer pause.
Out jumps good old Santa Claus
He goes on a yarn skein shopping spree
Brings all the stitchers on his list glee.
Berro-co-co, who wouldn't go?
Berro-co-co, who wouldn't go...
Grab up your Addis, click click click
Knit up some sock wool for good St. Nick.
First fill the stocking of little Sue
Give her some needles from Chia-Goo.
"Smoochy" yarn will make her eyes gleam,
Knitting with it is such a Dream!
Berro-co-co, who wouldn't go?
Berro-co-co, who wouldn't go...
Pick up your hooks, stitch, stitch, stitch
Crochet a scarf for good St. Nick.
Next fill the stocking of little Bea
With lovely hanks of Sim-plic-ity,
What a big smile will be on her face
When she discovers "Whisper Lace"!
Berro-co-co, who wouldn't go?
Berro-co-co, who wouldn't go?
Grab up your Addis, click, click, click
Knit up some sock wool for good St. Nick!

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Kathy's Kreations



*** A KNITTER'S CHRISTMAS ***

It's time for our annual poem based on *The Night Before Christmas* by Clement Clarke Moore. This version was gleaned from the Internet, originally blogged by Love2Knit:



A KNITTER'S CHRISTMAS

"Twas the night before Christmas, and, oh, I was weary.
My knitting unfinished, my eyes getting bleary.
The stockings weren't finished, the chimney was bare.
And I knew that morning soon would be there.
My children and husband were tucked in their beds,
But visions of stitches ran through my head.
I'd knitted ornaments and presents and gifts by the ton,
And now, I was finally, almost, almost done.
As I poised my needles for just one more stitch,
I heard something outside that made my hand twitch.
I jumped up from my knitting, and flew to the door,
Pressed my eye to the peephole, tiptoe off the floor.
My knitting forgotten, I peered into the night.
When suddenly, I got such a terrible fright.
On my porch appeared Santa holding his sack.
He knocked softly, and I took a giant step back.
I unlocked the deadbolt, and he came in,
He entered and gave me a mischevious grin.
"Hope you don't mind if I come in the door?"
"Coming down your chimney can be quite a chore."
He said: "You're up late. Still working I see.
Do you know how tired you're going to be?"
"I know, Santa," I said, with a sigh,
"But I'm still duplicate stitching the stars in the sky."
"And the fields on that stocking look blobby you know,
I need to duplicate stitch the drifts in the snow.
I've been knitting and knitting, and knitting, no rest.
I just tried to finish knitting too much, I guess."
"I know what you mean" he said with a smile.
"This is my busiest time of the year, by a mile."
He stopped down by the tree, and he opened his sack.
And began to pull presents out of his pack.
"I've got some things here I think you might like,
A complete set of Turbos, and a brand new Ott-Light.
A bundle of yarn, and a great big cutter,"
I smiled and felt my heart go a-flutter.
He put down gifts for us all,
then waved his right hand.
"Go to bed," he said, glancing at my floor stand.
He gave me a wink, and stepped out the door.
I just stood there a moment, glued to the floor.
After he'd left, I turned back to my chair,
Picked up the stockings and started to stare,
The duplicate stitching was done! The stars lit the sky!
And on my son's stocking, angels sung on high.
I ran to thank Santa for this final gift,
And watched as his sleigh started to lift.
I heard him exclaim as he pulled out of sight
"Merry Christmas to All, and To All A Good Night!"

*** SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY ***

During the holiday season, Kathy's Kreations is displaying a "handmade" tabletop Christmas tree in our shop window designed by Vina McLeod Rudolph. It is constructed of hand-knitted and crocheted cotton dishcloths in a variety of pattern designs and shades, as well as handmade Christmas ornaments, all donated by our customers. All items will be donated after the holidays to the local Food Bank for distribution. A big thank you to everyone who has generously given of their time and creativity to make this tree extra special, including Barbara S, Warren M, Larkey M, Liz S, Hannah V, Karen S, Roseann H, Dot G, Kathleen S, Missy H, Pam M, Aimee L, Joann P, Kathy K, Karen Mc, Donna G, Nan R, Charlene F, Gail G, Anita B, Pixie, Liz R, Ian R, Karen V, Louise W, anyone we may have inadvertently not mentioned (some were given anonymously or were received after this issue was printed), and of course, Vina...



*** SAVE THE DATES *****

- TOWN-WIDE OPEN HOUSE Sunday, December 8, 2019 12 noon - 5 pm Enjoy the carolers as you do your Christmas shopping in Ligonier!
- 29th ANNUAL LIGONIER ICE FEST Saturday and Sunday, January 25 - 26, 2019 Over 50 ice sculptures! Admire the ice masterpieces around town, then stop in at Kathy's Kreations to cozy up with a new yarn purchase!
- 16th ANNUAL PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET / CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL
March 20 - 22, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Green Tree, PA
This "can't-miss" event is the area's largest and best fiber festival! Look for us in the Market at booths 25 & 26 once again in the Green Tree Ballroom. Registration is open.
For additional details, visit the website at www.pghknitandcrochet.com
- LYS Day April 25, 2020

*** SHOP SMALL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON ***

Recently, someone from our Friday KAL group shared a message on a sign outside a local coffee shop that we'd like to share: "When you buy from a small business, you're not helping a CEO buy a third holiday home. You're helping a little girl get dance lessons, a little boy his team jersey, moms and dads put food on the table. Shop local!"

Thanks to everyone who supports this LYS not just on Small Business Saturday but throughout the year. Your business is greatly appreciated! Our best wishes to each and every one of you for a joyous holiday season, a "Wool Yule", and a Happy New Year ahead...

*** WELTED COWL ***

This is an easy knit, reversible cowl -- the ridge pattern looks lovely on either side! It also has potential as a stash buster. Our work in progress is shown at lower left.

FINISHED SIZE: approximately 9" high x 26" around, one size fits an average adult

MATERIALS: 150 yards worsted weight yarn (shown in WONDERLAND YARNS "March Hare"); US size 7 circular knitting needle 16" - 20" length; stitch marker

GAUGE: 20 sts / 36 rounds = 4" over welt pattern, slightly stretched. *TAKE TIME TO SAVE TIME, CHECK YOUR GAUGE*



DIRECTIONS: Cast on 130 stitches. Place marker and join for knitting in the round, being careful not to twist work.

Rounds 1 - 6: Purl

Rounds 7 - 12: Knit.

Repeat these 12 rounds until piece measures approximately 9", ending with round 5. Bind off all stitches loosely as if to purl. Weave in ends and enjoy!



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Join the "First Mondays" group for an evening of knitting, crocheting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate in Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are Monday evenings December 2, 2019 and January 6, 2020; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

*** "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS December 10, 2019 and January 14, 2020; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please, all skill levels welcome) ***
Join us for stitching, lots of fun conversation and maybe hot cocoa!

*** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT December 14, 2019 and January 11, 2020; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please, all skill levels welcome) ***
Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship and stitching for projects purchased here.

*** FUN FRIDAYS, December 20, 2019 and January 17, 2020; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ***
Have you heard of the Swedish practice of fredagsmys? It translates into "cozy Fridays." Come in for the yarn and leave with friendships on Fun Friday, our version of fredagsmys! 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...

*** DECEMBER KNIT-ALONG (KAL) ***
Stop by on Fridays in November from 10 am - 2 pm (rsvp please) to work on our newest KAL with your stitching friends to encourage you. Our featured project is *Morton*, a toasty colorwork cowl perfect for upcoming winter days (see details page 4). We also invite you to bring still-in-progress projects purchased here to complete. Not working on the KAL? 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 2019 thread and the Kathy Zimmerman Group...

*** "BUILDING WITH LACE" Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (knit) ***

*** "BUILDING BLOCKS" Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (knit) ***

*** "BUILDING WITH LACE" Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9:00 am - 12 noon (knit) ***

*** "CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT: TOP-DOWN MINI SOCK" Saturday, December 7, 2019, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (knit) ***

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 39 years!

Be good to your family and friends, show kindness to others, and keep creating you own cherished holiday traditions and memories by giving the gift of handmade. Remember, the things you get and give this year, the material things, are just that: things. The best gift of Christmas is the gift of yourself, spending time with those who mean the most. That's the gift that will be cherished and remembered... KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy