



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



Dear Knitters,

When it comes to fashion, details change from season to season. But, there's one thing for certain: a bold splash of color can lift your spirits on the dreariest of cold-weather days. Taking the stylish route this season means finding bright and vibrant shades along the way.

According to *Vogue Knitting Spring 2008*, "This season's focus is on natural fibers in all the colors of the rainbow". Let color define your style with fabulous accessories, hot socks or cozy sweaters that reflect your personality, while giving your wardrobe a cohesive look and generating an energy all its own. Pull on the warmth and comfort of fashion statements designed to chase away the chills. As knitters, we have the luxury of making beautifully unique items -- choosing the fibers, and the ways in which we manipulate the stitches, in colors we like and that flatter us.

Who doesn't need a little perking up in the middle of winter? Colorful, fresh new products for spring are already on our shelves, bringing a lively, uplifting excitement as we forecast a bright season ahead with plenty of project ideas. As the weather gets colder, the knitting and crocheting season heats up. Enjoy using your special skills to create a wardrobe as individual as you are. Stop by to see what's new, what's now, what's next...

### "IT'S SWEATER WEATHER!"

**All regularly-priced bulky weight yarns in stock  
are 10% off during February 2008**

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

Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open  
We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover/Novus, AX



Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment

Finishing services available

Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier

COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

Telephone 724-238-9320

e-mail [kathy@kathys-kreations.com](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations.com)

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



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

Pick up your sticks! Sweaters, accessories and afghans take time to make, but on the cold, frigid days of winter, there is nothing more comforting than their warmth. Your fashion itinerary for the pulled-together, positively classic looks of the season starts here at Kathy's Creations -- we've got everything you'll need for knitting and crocheting here, there, and every-where...

In addition to winter must-haves in textural technicolor, *Vogue Knitting Winter 2007/08* (\$6.99) features cables, Aran's new twists from creamy to dreamy. Our favorite is the exquisite cap and scarf set shown at upper left, featuring a tangled cable with skinny ribbed edges. This issue also focuses on romantic lace shawls (in those fine gauge yarns we've been telling you about) and rustic tweed jackets. Lace knitting's popularity merges timeless techniques with modern execution, and shawls are a great way to try something new...

In keeping with their mission to preserve needlework history, *Piecework Magazine* January / February 2008 (\$5.99) devotes itself to knitting. Each article and project delves into the history behind a tradition and/or the person(s) who perfected or preserved a technique. This is a captivating issue filled with fascinating projects -- ancient arctic mitten techniques, traditional "stork's nest" pattern Estonian Lace scarf by Nancy Bush, Danish gloves, "knitted poetry" mittens, knitting with bear hair, Lihuanian knitting traditions, and our favorite project, Ann Budd's Modern Kimono-Style Cardigan (shown lower right).

The Lunar New Year is celebrated by people of Oriental heritage on February 7, 2008. We're marking the occasion with an exciting new yarn. CRYSTAL PALACE "Panda Silk" (\$9.35, 50 grams, 204 yards; 52% bamboo / 43% merino wool / 5% combed silk) is a new fingering weight addition to the "Panda" family. The bamboo gives a great feel and a luster, the wool gives a soft-feeling core and the combed silk gives this yarn sheen and strength. "Panda Silk" printed colors are all tone-on-tone shades with coordinating solids. The numbers are a clue -- color 4001 matches with 3001, 4006 with 3006, etc.

New from KNITTING PURE & SIMPLE is #284 "Woman's Neckdown Collared Bolero" (\$5.25). This stylish cropped jacket is worked with worsted weight yarn and features a single button closure and 2X2 ribs. Ask to see our large selection of KP&S "top down" patterns for adults and children...

The children in your life will be thrilled with SKACEL COLLECTION's "Super Cotton Sock Puppets" pattern booklet (\$7.95, spiral bound). These are cute socks adorned with whimsical faces and embellishments -- choose from bunnies, pigs, flowers, dinosaurs, caterpillars, bumblebees, butterflies and birds...

New from NATURALLY NZ YARNS is "Naturelle Chunky 14 Ply" (\$8.50, 100 grams, 131 yards, 100% pure wool), available in rustic "sheep" colors of cream, beiges, browns and charcoal. This yarn can be used to make clever intarsia sheep or dog squares afghans, and for rug punch...



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

Tracey Earhart's HALFMOON HOLLOW DESIGNS "Everyone's Favorite Snowboarder's Hat" (\$5.00, shown right) is just the answer to finding time for knitting while still keeping up with your busy lifestyle. These cozy, warm earflap hats are the latest rage at the local ski slopes. This hat can be completed in just a few hours with superbulky or two strands of bulky weight yarn (our models used BROWN SHEEP "Burly Spun"). It is worked in the round with a crochet edging applied around the entire hat, and tassels at the top and the ends of I-cord on the earflaps. You'll stay on the go in style...



We're a UNIQUE KOLOURS "Hot Sox Spot"! *Knitter's Magazine* is sponsoring a **"Think Outside the Sox"** contest (see details page 6). We are pleased to announce the addition of 20 new colors of COLINETTE "Jitterbug", bringing our inventory to over 30 colors in stock. If you aren't familiar with this fabulous and versatile yarn, "Jitterbug" (\$21.50, 110 gram hanks, 320 yards, 100% easy care merino wool) comes with a free sock pattern on the label (sized for a medium adult). The hand-dyed colors, in this season of color, are spectacular, ranging from muted watercolor monochromatics to eye-popping variegated shades. This yarn works up on size US 2 needles at a traditional fingering weight gauge of 8 stitches per inch, making it ideal for wraps, fingerless mitts, shawls, baby items and whatever else your creativity can think of...

Doing the right thing for the environment has become so popular that the trend has translated to fashion. Take style, quality, comfort and functionality to the next level while being considerate of our planet with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Cotton Bamboo" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 130 yards, 52% cotton / 48% bamboo). This sportweight beauty has an incredibly soft hand, beautiful drape, and great stitch definition -- as well as using a renewable source. Also new from CLASSIC ELITE YARNS is "Soft Linen" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 137 yards, 30% baby alpaca / 35% wool / 35% linen). "Soft Linen" knits to DK weight gauge with US size 5 needles, combining the drape of linen with the soft hand of alpaca. It has wonderful stitch definition and comes in a lovely, earthy color range. "Silky Alpaca Lace" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 460 yards, 70% alpaca / 30% silk) has been flying off our shelves. This gorgeous lace weight yarn has a lovely softness and halo. It is airy and light yet warm, has a subtle sheen and the colors are amazing. One ball will make a lovely scarf or stole...

CLASSIC ELITE pattern booklets (\$14.95 each) have a new look, with plenty of pattern support for our new yarns. "Make It Modern" features seven contemporary, feminine styles in "Soft Linen" and "Cotton Bamboo". There is a hoodie, feather & fan cardigan (THE most popular lace pattern stitch this season), a girly-girl tank, fluttery sleeve top, smock top (empire waist), a clever button-up shrug and little leaf scarf. "Summer Book One" features ten handknitting patterns in nature's colors, including a lounging jacket, lace wrap cardigan, big lace pullover, menwear-inspired vest, raglan rib pullover, swing top, lacy cardigan, wrap skirt, lacy hat, and wrap blanket. "Summer Book Two" (cover shown lower left) is a collection of ten handknitting patterns in sunny colors featuring a striped dress, lace border skirt, lace wrap skirt, side-to-side yoke pullover, collared cardigan, reverse seam pullover, V-neck openwork pullover, leaf yoke pullover, lace rib pullover and one-button cardigan (shown at left).





\*\*\*\*\* EXCITING NEW THINGS ARE HAPPENING \*\*\*\*\*

Kathy's Kreations introduced **needle felting** to our customers shortly after "wet felting" knitting appeared on the scene, and have been on the cutting edge ever since. We have recently added a new line of needle-felting kits and patterns to our large inventory of tools, roving wool and books. It is a logical progression for us to be interested in other needlearts using yarn and fiber. This month, we are pleased to introduce the dimensional arts of **OXFORD RUG PUNCH** using yarn in multiple weights and **punchneedle embroidery** worked with floss to our fine collection of products for your continued stitching pleasure. We invite you to come learn something new.

Raised pile designs that look like miniature hooked rugs are fun and easy to create with punchneedle embroidery. It's incredibly simple to learn, perfectly portable, and easy to start *and* finish in a matter of hours! No wonder needlepunch embroidery has such a fanatical following! You can create tiny treasures, ranging from primitive folk art to sophisticated looks, turning projects into pins, necklace pendants, and accents on clothing, pillows, felted totes, jeans and more.

Punchneedle is a unique art. A special needle, threaded with floss, is punched down into the fabric from the wrong side. A small loop is left behind on the right side when the needle is brought up from the fabric. In no time, the cluster of loops form a "miniature rug".

For punchneedle embroidery, the fabric is stretched taut in a hoop. We are stocking MORGAN hoops, MADE IN THE USA, available individually or in a "lap frame". These hoops have a "tongue-and-groove design that holds the fabric very taut and avoids slippage. If you haven't tried these hoops, Tracey recommends them as being "drum tight". Pre-packaged weaver's cloth, the best fabric for working punchneedle, is also available, as well as a how-to self-instructional DVD by Charlotte Dudney.

With punchneedle, it's all about the needle. We will be carrying CRT punchneedles, MADE IN THE USA, in one-, three-, and six-strand sizes, in addition to threaders. CTR needles feature a bevel indicator that easily shows the direction of the stitch.

Our floss collection currently includes Weeks Dye Works and Gentle Art, both perfect for one- three- or six-strand punchneedles. GENTLE ART produces "gently" overdyed, six-ply cotton embroidery floss called Sampler Threads. It is beautiful floss with a primitive appearance, available in five-yard skeins that are precut into convenient one-yard lengths. WEEKS DYE WORKS hand-overdyed six-ply cotton floss features colors variegated enough to be noticeable, yet subtle enough to blend naturally. Each skein contains five yards in a continuous length. More colors are being added to our collection weekly.

We are including patterns and kits from STONE & THREAD, RACHEL'S OF GREENFIELD, THE PRAIRIE GROVE PEDDLER, WITH THY NEEDLE & THREAD, HOOKED ON RUGS, and FRENCH FANTASY DESIGNS, and more on the way. We are pleased to stock the complete line of WOOLLEY FOX Needlepunch Embroidery Patterns, and to be working with local artisan, Barb Carroll. Barb's WOOLLEY FOX Primitive Rug patterns are available by special order -- please ask to see our catalog.

We plan to feature needlepunch embroidery kits from local artisans which will be unique to our shop, and we will strive to keep our line "MADE IN THE USA" as much as possible. We plan to offer "crossover" projects using traditional knitting and crochet yarns in new ways (think embellishing felted knits, home dec projects, buttons and purse ornaments). Helen Stetina will be our guest teacher for these techniques, and we look forward to her classes. We are on the threshold of something very exciting here at Kathys Kreations, so please come meet our new babies as we expand our vision of how creative fiber arts can be...

\*\*\*\*\* MORE EXCITING NEW THINGS HAPPENING \*\*\*\*\*

"Paint" with yarn and fabric with OXFORD RUG PUNCH! WOOLEY FOX Primitive Rug patterns use the OXFORD Rug Punch tools, and we stock all four sizes available. The wonderful thing about Rug Punch is that you can use many commercial DK and worsted weight knitting and crocheting yarns from our shelves (and maybe a little from your stash) to create wonderful home dec items like chair pads, small rugs, pillows, footstools, even purses. Rug Punch is our latest "work in progress", and classes are coming -- please sign up for information and we will contact you with details. Amy Oxford's book, "Punch Needle Rug Hooking" will also arrive soon...

\*\*\*\*\* UN-SHRINK A SHRUNKEN SWEATER \*\*\*\*\*

If your sweater has shrunk more than a size or two, it's too late, reports [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com). But if it is just a bit too snug, these steps can return it to the original size:

Mix 2 tbsp. baby shampoo into a sink full of water. The shampoo will relax natural fibers such as wool. Soak the sweater for 15 minutes. Without rinsing the sweater, take it out of the soapy water and roll it in a towel to remove as much moisture as possible. Spread the sweater on a large corkboard, pulling it into the size you want. Fasten the sweater to the corkboard using T-pins, being careful not to snag the sweater. Return to the sweater every few hours, re-stretching and re-pinning as necessary, until the sweater is dry.

\*\*\*\*\* THE SIDEWAYS SCARF FELTED (shown lower right) \*\*\*\*\*

Several years ago, our BROWN SHEEP sales rep Lois Walker introduced us to the sideways scarf, a simple garter stitch scarf worked lengthwise changing colors every row, adding fringe "as you go". We've re-visited this basic idea a couple of times, substituting openwork or textures for the garter stitch for unique effects. And now, Lois has a new take on the idea -- a felted version! Lois worked hers with some odds and ends of BROWN SHEEP monochromatic shades from her stash. She cautions us to use "Color Catcher" in the hot water to keep the colors bright and to check the felting often, separating the fringe to keep it from clumping together. Lois used a long-tail cast on, using two shades, one for the foundation and one for the loop on the needle. Have fun -- we'd love to hear your success stories about this project.

FINISHED SIZE: approx. 5" X 62" after felting

MATERIALS: 325 yards BROWN SHEEP Lamb's Pride worsted weight (mixed colors); US 10.5 circular knitting needle 40" length; one sheet SHOUT "Color Catcher" (available in the laundry section of most supermarkets)

GAUGE: not critical

DIRECTIONS: Leaving a 6"- 8" tail at the beginning and with long-tail method, cast on 172 sts. Cut yarn, leaving a 6" - 8" tail. Knit 42 - 44 rows garter stitch (knit every row), always cutting yarn at the end of each row, leaving a 6" - 8" length at the beginning and end for fringe. Mix and match colors, varying the colors from 1 - 5 rows of each color. The width of the piece should be 8" - 9" before felting. Bind off loosely.

FELTING: Place scarf in zippered pillowcase. Set washing machine to smallest load and select hot water. Add one sheet "Color Catcher" and an old pair of jeans or tennis balls. Agitate 12 -15 minutes on regular cycle. Check every five minutes to separate fringe. When scarf reaches desired felting, remove from washer. Roll in towels to absorb water. Shape into desired measurements and lay flat to air dry. Thanks, Lois!

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\*\*\*\*\* HOT SOX SPOT \*\*\*\*\*

Are you ready to think outside the sox? We hope you are, and that you'll join us in making 2008 the year of THE SOX.

In 1996, *Knitter's Magazine* held a contest inviting knitters to submit original designs for socks with the purpose of creating an event that would combine participation and interaction between knitters and *Knitter's*. The sock contest was an amazing success. Hundreds of knitters from four countries entered with some of the most imaginative designs the world had ever seen. Out of that contest, XRX, Inc. published a book, *SOCKS SOCKS SOCKS*, which is still one of the best-selling books in the industry.

*Knitter's* is ready to do it again! And we're proud to be joining in the enthusiasm and energy to encourage our customers to participate in this unprecedented sock contest, **Think Outside the SOX**. We're a Unique Colours SOX HOT SPOT featuring COLINETTE "Jitterbug" yarns. Look for upcoming information here at Kathy's Kreations, in future issues of *Knitter's*, KnitU (XRX's online community) and Ravelry.com.

We think we've got some very talented customers whose work is worthy of entering into this competition, so we urge you to get involved in the fun. We would love it if the winning entry was made with yarn purchased at Kathy's Kreations. We're ready to help make this the most exciting and talked about knitting news of 2008. All we need now is YOU!

\*\*\*\*\* SOCK KNITTING TIPS \*\*\*\*\*

When knitting sock cuffs, the cast-on row often ends up being tighter than the rest of the cuff. To add ease at the top of the sock, cast on double the number of stitches and then knit or purl -- as the pattern requires -- two together for the first row.

Another possible solution is to cast on with a set of double-pointed needles that are one or two sizes larger than the needles you plan to use for the correct gauge. When you join and start the first round, use the needle size for the project.

To make certain that your socks are the same size, keep track of rounds worked on the first sock on a piece of paper. When you work the second sock, make certain that you work the same number of rounds. If you are careful about recording each round, the second sock will be exactly the same as the first.

To adapt a sock pattern for a custom fit, measure the circumference of the foot. If the wearer has wider or narrower feet than the "average" size listed on the pattern, use the gauge for the pattern (for example, 7 sts per inch) and multiply the circumference by that number. If the wearer's foot is 9 inches around, then multiply 9 x 7 to get 63. Since a multiple of 4 is easier to divide onto double-pointed needles, add 1 stitch and cast on 64 stitches. This will also make it easier to work knit one, purl one ribbing or knit two, purl ribbing for the cuff.

When purchasing self-stripping yarns, pay attention to the color sequence in the yarn. Some knitters love the look of "matchy, matchy" socks, while other knitters are perfectly content to have them unmatched. If you want your pair to match AND you are working with a yarn that has a regular sequence (some don't), begin the first sock at a junction between two colors. When beginning the second sock, wind off yarn to get to the same place in the color sequence. Remember that subtle changes in your tension will affect how the colors in your yarn line up, particularly in any spotted sections. Don't make yourself crazy -- simply relax and enjoy the unique idiosyncrasies of your yarn, especially with handpainted yarns...



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



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

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

\*\*\*\*\* SPRING FORECAST \*\*\*\*\*

It's time to make a rainbow connection and get excited about colors! In *Yarn Market News* January 2008, Adina Klein gives us her spring forecast:

- "Bright Young Things" rule the runways. Quirky combinations add a whiff of 60s style to sporty silhouettes. Stripes in hot fuchsia, aqua and chartreuse put the naughty in nautical attire and colorblocking. Easy intarsia is a trend that will stay fresh into fall.
- Hello, Sunshine! In shades from lemon to mustard, yellow suits all tastes this summer. Pale yellow looks polished and softens bold black and white. Ocher adds ethnic flavor to khakis. And bright banana looks so delicious, you'll be seeing it in, well, bunches. You heard it from Adina first: Yellow is the new red.
- Opposites attract! What's black and white and knit all over? Knits in every style, from lacey to spacey! Keep up appearances: shells and cardies in basic black make perfect office attire, especially if the office is chilly. Simple black and white stripes look tres chic on a tailored jacket. The best thing about B&W? It never goes out of style. Cudos to our own Tracey Earhart, who planned our February black and white window display before we knew we would be predicting a trend!
- Channel your inner Brooke Shields / Blue Lagoon with all things blue and beautiful. Part bohemian, part preppy, this color gives depth to shawls, crocheted coverups and mesh skirts. Baby blues add youth to traditional tennis togs. Get the blues this season by layering tone on tone. Our clairvoyant colorist Tracey once again was right on the money with our blue toned window displays in January.
- Gamorganic -- it's more a state of mind than a color. Bamboo was just the beginning of the alternative-fiber onslaught. Now, there's shrimp, milk by-products, corn, banana -- a veritable three-course meal is available for casting on. And what reflects the fact that fashion should come naturally better than relaxed, asymmetrical shapes?

Eleanor Swogger, who test knits many of Kathy's original designs, reported seeing lots of neutral colors in lace work at the recent TNNA Show in California. Eleanor tells us that lightweight yarns in DK weight or finer gauge are very trendy, lace & cable stitch pattern combinations were on the scene and socks are once again THE hot project...



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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, February 4, 2008, and March 3, 2008, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. Winter project knitting books will be featured...

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

**Tuesday evenings, February 12, 2008, and March 11, 2008, from 7 - 9 pm**

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

\*\*\*\*\* **FUN FRIDAY with instructor Betty Lou Glasco** \*\*\*\*\*

**Friday, February 15, 2008, 10 am - 2pm**

At least once a month, we invite stitchers to join us to sit and knit or crochet. You'll find we do much more than just knit: you'll share many wonderful things, from conversation to ideas, and favorite patterns to tricks learned along the way. It's fun! It's free! All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Betty Lou is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

\*\*\*\*\* **UPCOMING CLASSES** \*\*\*\*\*

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

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

\*Registration fee must be pre-paid at the time of registration to reserve a space in class. If you need to cancel, we will refund tuition up to 48 hours prior to the class. After that, we will refund half of the tuition in the form of a store credit. Unless noted, class fees do not include materials. Classes without a minimum of 3 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor.

Exceptions will be made for inclement weather. Students may pre-register for classes by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to [kathy@kathys-kreations.com](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 27 years!**

\*\*\*\*\* **SPECIAL PUNCH NEEDLE EVENT** \*\*\*\*\*

Please join us for "Punch & Cookies" as we introduce our new line of needle punch patterns, kits, tools & accessories, and new needle felting kits, on **Saturday, February 2, 2008, 9 am - 5 pm**. We will have a display of sample items for you to see. How-to classes are in the works, and we will be glad to add you to our contact list. Please join us for this fun kick-off for something new, needle punch and Oxford rug punch, at Kathy's Kreations...

The process of knitting is a journey as well as a destination, limited only by your imagination. We wish a pleasant journey filled with stitching bliss and happy endings.

KEEP KNITTING! Kathy