



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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FEBRUARY 2009 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

Like everyone else these days, knitters and stitchers are thinking "green". From choosing organic yarns, to reusing or recycling yarns from other projects, to making warm sweaters & afghans so we can turn down the thermostat and reduce heating bills, there are a variety of ways to join the "green" revolution.

Maddy Cranley (of MaddyLaine patterns fame, on our patterns shelf) writes in her web news: "You are mostly likely familiar with the knitting abbreviation SSK, slip two stitches and knit together to decrease one stitch. In these tough economic times, it might better stand for -- save, save, knit. The new buzzword is 'save', encouraging us to save our money, our heating fuel, and our garbage..."

We knitters are ahead of the game and have already compulsively saved yarn in our stashes. Now it is time for the stash yarn to shine, time to stop saving yarn and start knitting in order to reap some benefit from that foresight of putting yarn away for a rainy day.

Yarn can appear dated, sometimes by color or texture, and could use a jump-start by combining it with a new purchase. Perhaps you can use yarn from your stash as an accent collar, for sweater ribbing, a pocket, or the inside facing of a double collar. There is one more thing you must not forget to save -- time for knitting".

Thanks, Maddy! We're already on the bandwagon with our fabulous collection of organic and natural fiber yarns. We invite you to check out our clearance table and new products for a ball or two of stash-stretching yarns. And, Kathy is having a "Stash Buster" party on March 21-- learn how to make a fashion-savvy sideways scarf from odds & ends! Enjoy your craft, help the planet, and by all means,

WARM UP WITH WOOL
All regularly-priced 100% wool yarns (all weights)
in stock are 10% off
during February 2009

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open
We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover/Novus, AX

Private knitting and crochet instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services available
Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
Telephone 724-238-9320

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

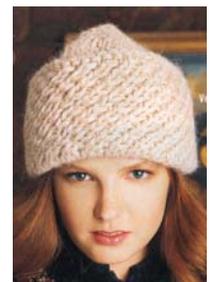
The sun always shines for knitters in winter, when handstitched projects melt the deepest chill. This season, while many of us are looking for ways to stretch our budgets, we're often challenged to make the difficult choice between quality and price. At Kathy's Creations, we always strive to bring you both. Designer Kate Lemmers recently reminded us that knitting, crocheting and stitching have serious entertainment value -- a project can keep you entranced for hours, while a restaurant dinner or movie costs the same for just one evening. Quite a bargain, don't you think? Here's what heating up our shelves...

New from FIBER TRENDS comes "Snowboarder Hats for Everyone" AC-91 (\$5.50, shown upper left), a design by our own Tracey Earhart. Knit in NATURALLY YARNS big hank "Aspire" (\$28.95, 200 grams, 145 yards, 70% wool / 30% alpaca, CYCA yarn classification 6), a super chunky yarn, or choose a doubled strand of bulky weight wool on US 15 needles. You can make it tonight, wear it tomorrow. Snowboarding is optional...

Bulky yarns have exploded on the market over the past decade because of their quick-knitability, textural intrigue and couture charm. Lay it on thick, as VOGUE KNITTING Winter 2008 / 09 (\$6.99) presents the bold and the beautiful -- bulky and super-chunky yarns showcasing the finest large-gauge chunky chic knits imaginable. In knitting, those little elements of surprise -- unusual hemlines, unexpected shapes, exhilarating bursts of texture of lace -- add up to big impact and beauty on a grand scale. This issue also explores new directions and fresh concepts expanding the horizons of no-seam knitting. Wintery white cables look their crispest against a blanket of creamy white, which is why time and time again knitters return to this shade as the perfect backdrop. Aran inspiration goes graceful, looking lovelier and fitting more femininely than ever. At the other end of the spectrum is the color story -- choose as many hues as possible to brighten up the winter scene. Our favorites are the "Highland Fling" accessories worked in textures (see diagonal twist hat, lower right) and Fair Isle...

Piecework January/February 2009 (\$5.99) is the 3rd annual historical knitting issue from INTERWEAVE PRESS. If you aren't familiar with this magazine, it is a fascinating collection of historical work plus intriguing stories and techniques. A few of the treasures you'll find are Alice Starmore's beautiful Fair Isle "Wee Baby Bonnet", WWI classic wartime "keep them warm" knitted wristlets with ruffled edges, whimsical Andean figure purses (we love the fish-shaped one), precious booties to knit in the Portuguese style, and an interesting article about Eleanor Roosevelt's love of knitting. And, don't miss Jacqueline Fee's updated directions for knitting two socks at once -- one inside *the* other -- adapted from a pattern originating during the WWI Red Cross knitting for servicemen program.

The winter 08 / spring 09 *Knitscene* magazine features 32 simple, spirited, stylish knits that span the seasons. There are great looks to pair with jeans and one vest in three styles. Beyond the fabulous patterns, you'll find an excellent tutorial on buttonholes, and a new department, Stylespotting, to school you on combining fashion with handknits...



*** WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S NEXT, WHAT'S KNITTING ***

Are you looking for something to chase away the winter blues? February has us thinking of getaways -- daydreaming about them, planning them, perhaps travelling to them. In action or thought, a getaway is truly any place that warms, relaxes, calms and cheers you. Knitting, crocheting, and stitching offer a little time away from the everyday that can do you a world of good. With that in mind, spring things are arriving on our shelves -- whether you are imagining, planning or actually travelling, be sure take your favorite fiberart along. We've got the latest projects and products to beat the blahs and warm your spirit...



- Six new spring / summer pattern booklets are here from NASHUA HANDKNITS:
- "Creative Focus Silk" (NHK39, \$9.50) includes two designs from Kathy -- the cropped, openwork & textured "Leaf Cardigan" (shown lower left) and mock cable & lace "V-Neck Pullover" (shown upper right) with bobble embellishments
 - "Daylily" (NHK38, \$10.50) showcases a beautiful new multi-color yarn (\$8.50, 50 grams, 87 yards, 46% cotton / 31% acrylic / 23% nylon, CYCA yarn classification 4); ask to see our gorgeous cropped scoop neck cardigan model on display
 - "The North American Designer Collection #8" (NHK40, \$9.50) get started now on these bright new looks to spruce up your spring wardrobe
 - "Style" (NSTYLE.0002, \$8.50) six easy, breezy warm weather designs
 - "Style" (NSTYLE.0001, \$8.50) five very feminine lace & eyelet designs for spring
 - "Sprout" (NHK37, \$10.50) charming designs for today's babies

New from ROWAN CLASSIC YARNS is luxurious season-spanning Italian import "Pima Cotton DK" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 142 yards, CYCA yarn classification 3). Pattern support includes a fabulous book, "Reminisce" designed by Martin Storey, featuring basics and classic cables. Our favorite is "Promenade", a long-sleeved V-neck cabled cardigan with shawl collar...

Love self-striping yarns that do their own thing? Check out the gorgeous subtle colorways of BERROCO "Geode" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 103 yards, 50% wool / 50% acrylic, CYCA yarn classification 4). Companion pattern booklet #276 (\$8.95) includes some fantastic accessories like a diagonal swirl hat, ribbed hats, felted diagonal bag, a cozy hood, and several sweaters in contemporary shapes. Also new is TWILLEY's multi-marled "Freedom Spirit DK" (\$5.50, 50 grams, 131 yards, CYCA yarn classification 3) -- great for traditional knitting and also felting...

Discover, create and enjoy STYLECRAFT's "Pure Luxury Merino DK" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 130 yards, 100% merino wool, CYCA yarn classification 3). This yarn is a fabulous choice for "Baby Collection" Book 602 (\$10.50), with stylish contemporary designs for babies from birth to 6 months. Also see TWILLEY's "Freedom Sincere" (\$10.50), baby knits in organic cottons...



Jingles, jangles & jewelry for knitters: JUL SILVER off-center rosewood shawl sticks add the perfect finishing touch to your wrap (\$18.50) -- with shafts in actual knitting needle sizes. We also have JUL's metal slide buckles for NONI DESIGNS felted Green Earth Bag strap handles and bag "feet" to protect your favorite felted or handmade tote...



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Reveal your inner "French Girl"! *French Girl Knits* (\$24.95 shown left) offers 18 inspired projects that flatter all body types and draw on feminine, romantic, and vintage fashion trends. Technique overviews teach Kristeen Griffin-Grimes' seamless construction methods, providing valuable information for both beginning and seasoned knitters. Divided into four vignettes inspired by French daily life, film, and history, knitters will be delighted and inspired by the unique designs, stitch detailing, and modern use of historical techniques...

The sequel to the beloved #1 New York Times bestseller *Friday Night Knitting Club*, Kate Jacobs' *Knit Two* (\$24.95, hardback) is here! This book returns to yarn shop Walker & Daughter, and finds young Dakota running the yarn shop with help from the Friday Night Knitting Club. Another fun novel about knitting friendships is *Unravelled* (\$14.00, paperback), a quirky story of failed romance and self-discovery, as the heroine joins a knitting circle. Let's all curl up under our afghans and snuggle in with this inviting group of gals...

Trying to find designs in large sizes is not always easy, but that's the beauty of knitting -- you can make your own! Designed to flatter the fuller feminine figure from size 16 upwards, *Knitting Goes Large* (\$24.95, softcover) aims to fill the gap by offering a selection of 20 great all-occasions, all-seasons knits for larger women with varying figure types. Whether you are looking for warm winter jackets, comfortable sweaters, cool summer cardigans or tunics, neat tops to wear under a suit, pretty evening cover-ups, or scarves, stoles and bags, you'll find something appealing here, all in popular, classic ROWAN yarns...

PLYMOUTH YARNS presents *Earthworks* (\$24.95, softcover) by designer Cornelia Tuttle Hamilton, using select fibers from across the globe, each displaying natural beauty in its purest form, free of color additives and harsh chemical processing. This is a diverse set of designs showcasing the subtle, but powerful characteristics of natural colors and fibres. There are 18 projects, mostly women's sweaters, but also some for men & girls..

Fond of authentic cobweb lace knitting? *Shetland Lace* (\$45.00, softcover) by Gladys Amedro has been re-printed by popular demand. Her instructions are easy to follow, and given row by row, written in the traditional Shetland variation. The results are breathtaking. The enthusiasm for this intricate lacemaking continues strong and is now available to a new generation of knitters...

In *The Essential Guide to Color Knitting Techniques* (\$29.95, hardcover), Margaret Radcliffe unravels the intricacies of combining two or more yarn colors, explaining all the techniques that transform simple knitted items into fabulous, colorful masterpieces. From the easy trick of working with multicolor yarn to the more complex details of stranding and intarsia, here are all the beautiful possibilities for playing with color in knitting. With Radcliffe's clear instructions as a reliable road map, every knitter will discover her inner color designer...

The 'I Hate To Finish Sweaters' Guide to Finishing Sweaters 2nd edition is again in stock (\$13.95, spiral bound) and selling out fast...

*** EVEN MORE GREAT NEW "GREEN" STUFF ***

Why choose ROWAN Purelife Organic Cotton (\$10.50, 50 grams, 131 yards, 100% organic cotton, CYCA yarn classification 3)? This eco-conscious yarn uses fully organic cotton, grown in an environmentally and socially responsible way without the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. The organic plant dyes produce no toxic effluent. These new shades are now here -- chlorophyll (pale green), medium indigo (pale blue), cherry plum (sandy tan), brazilwood (pale rose), and oak apple (medium taupe). Pattern support includes "The Organic Cotton Kids Collection" book (\$19.50), 15 precious designs for children ages 0 - 3 years & 4-8 years and toys (adorable, whimsical cows, pigs and chickens)...



*** KNITTING TIPS ***

"Ladders" or loose stitches, can occur when working with double-pointed needles in the round. Ladders are caused by too much yarn between the last stitch on one needle and the first stitch on the next. Sandi Wisehart, editor of Knitting Daily.com recommends a firm little tug to ensure there is no extra yarn, and uses this mantra: "give the yarn an extra tug so the stitches will be nice and snug". Tug until the needles gently touch each other -- experiment to find the proper amount of "pull".

Sometimes, a change in the type of needle can make a difference. We are also getting rave reviews from our customers about the even appearance of their work with our new KOLLAGE YARNS square double-pointed needles.

*** KATHY'S FAUX BRIOCHE RIB SCARF & HAT ***

HAT SIZE: Adult's medium (large in parentheses) to fit head circumference 22" (23.5")

SCARF: 7.5" X 60"

MATERIALS: ROWAN "Purelife Organic Wool DK" 300 yards for scarf, 125 (135) yards for hat; US sizes 4 & 6 knitting needles; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 22 sts / 30 rows = 4" in pattern, using size US 6 knitting needles

PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 4 + 1)

Row 1 (wrong side, WS): K2, P1; *K3, P1; repeat from * across row, end K2.

Row 1 (right side, RS): P1; *K3, P1; repeat from * across row.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 for pattern.

HAT DIRECTIONS (worked flat, back & forth)

With smaller needles, cast on 121 (129) sts. Work in pattern stitch for 1" (1.25"). Change to larger needles. Continue in pattern until work measures approx. 6" (6.25"), end WS.

Shape crown:

Row 1 (RS): P1, *ssk (slip, slip, knit decrease), K1, P1; repeat from * across row: 91 (97) sts.

Row 2 & all even-numbered rows: *K2, P1; repeat from * across row, end K1.

Row 3: P1; *K2tog, P1; repeat from * across row: 61 (65) sts.

Row 4: *K1, P1; repeat from * across to last st, K1.

Row 5: K1, *K2tog (knit 2 sts together); repeat from * across: 31 (33) sts.

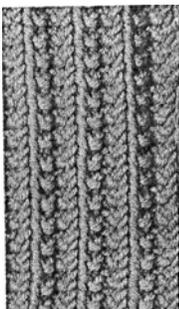
Cut yarn, leaving a 12" tail. Draw through remaining sts & pull up tightly to secure. Sew seam. Weave in end.

SCARF DIRECTIONS (worked flat, back & forth)

With larger needles, cast on 41 sts. Work in faux brioche rib pattern until piece measures 60" or desired length. Bind off all sts in pattern. Cut yarn.

Weave in ends.

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*** 5th ANNUAL PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL ***

It's back, bigger and better than ever! We at Kathy's Kreations are pleased to be one of 48 exhibitors at the 5th Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival Saturday & Sunday, February 14th & 15th, 2009. The event moves to a larger location this year at the Four Points Sheraton North in Mars, PA, near the PA Turnpike Cranberry exit & I-79. Look for Kathy's Kreations to be there in an expanded "double" booth (#2 & #3), filled with amazing yarns, patterns, books, kits, accessories and gadgets. Eleanor Swogger, Merchandise Manager of KRAEMER YARNS, and designer Kate Lemmers will be helping out at our booth -- KRAEMER YARNS are proudly made in here in our home state of Pennsylvania! Eleanor will be teaching a Fair Isle knitting class, the Starry Night purse. This year's event features over 40 classes with a variety of instructors, including Nancy Premoshis (Garter Stitch Patchwork Jacket), Kate Lemmers (Don't Rip It, Fix It and Color with Confidence) and Lisa Carnahan (Double Knitting).

What special things do we have planned?

- We are so pleased to help Kate Lemmers launch her self-published pattern collection "Ivanna Nit-Moore" designs (a "premiere" event, only available at our booth) -- come by and meet this up and coming designer in person; patterns available for purchase individually and in kits
- Custom hand-dyed yarns AND our one-of-a-kind "black & gold" scarf kits from KRAEMER Naturals, enhanced with accent yarns
- KRAEMER YARNS "Irish Rose Twinset", a new design by Kathy Zimmerman in linen blend "Belfast" yarn recently introduced at the TNNA San Diego fashion show
- KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection", a new machine-washable acrylic/merino wool blend
- Prayer Shawl Patterns & LISA KNITS patterns designed by Lisa Carnahan worked in KRAEMER YARNS
- Knit For The Cure scarf patterns & kits (proceeds benefit breast cancer research)
- Kollage Yarns square knitting needles (straights, dpns & circulars)
- NASHUA HANDKNITS yarns, designs & patterns from Kathy Zimmerman and Kate Lemmers
- KNITTER'S MAGAZINE designs & patterns from Kathy Zimmerman (super-chunky knits with KRAEMER YARNS "Bear Creek", and CLASSIC ELITE "Aspen")
- Accessories, socks, mitts, shawls, yarn dyeing kits, Eucalan wool wash, knitting & crocheting gadgets, books, current magazines, buttons, buckles and whatever else we can fit into Eleanor's van, Lisa's trunk and Kate's car.

If you are planning to come and have a special request for a product you would like us to bring, just give us a call and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

For registration and information, visit www.pghknitandcrochet.com or call 412-963-7030. Be sure to pick up a discount card here at Kathy's Kreations for \$2 off admission at the door...

*** KNITTING RETREAT IN THE MOUNTAINS ***

You are cordially invited to attend the 2009 KNITTING RETREAT IN THE MOUNTAINS sponsored by Carol's Yarn Shop. The retreat is being held at Will O' the Wisp Resort on beautiful Deep Creek Lake, MD, March 6th, 7th & 8th, 2009. Our own Kathy is one of the featured guest instructors and will teach a cabled scarf that she designed and named for the "Deep Creek Knitters". A yarn market and several special events are planned. Registrations are limited to 60 people and Carol is expecting this to be sold out fast. For further information, please contact Carol Smith at (301) 387-6554 or e-mail yarn@starband.net

*** PUNCH NEEDLE EMBROIDERY NEWS ***

Helen Stetina will be offering "Make It -- Take It" Valentine Heart punch needle classes on Saturday, February 14, 2009, with your choice of 10:00 am - 1:00 pm OR 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Registration fee for this class is \$25, which includes instruction from Helen and finishing ideas. Student class supplies include 3-strand CTR punchneedle, 5" embroidery hoop, and small, sharp scissors. Threads for this project are a separate cost and students will choose from the shop's inventory. To register, please call Kathy's Kreations at (724) 238-9320. Please feel free to contact Helen with questions via e-mail: guppy0613@comcast.net

*** OXFORD RUG PUNCH NEWS FROM TRACEY EARHART ***

Tracey Earhart will be offering the following classes for spring 2009:
INTRODUCTION TO RUG PUNCH (two dates are offered -- choose one)

Saturday, February 28, OR Saturday, March 28, 2009

3.5 hour class 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm; registration fee \$50.00

Class fee includes a 20" X 20" rug punch frame, monk's cloth for project, use of templates and instruction (yarn and Oxford rug punch needle are separate purchases). Create a chair pad or mat, using a selection of templates to create your own design. During class, students will select and purchase yarns of their choice to make a one-of-a-kind unique design.

Students will not complete the project during the allotted class time, but will have enough knowledge to comfortably and easily move forward on their own at home. Tracey is always willing to provide additional assistance and answer questions by telephone or -email. Additional class supplies needed -- notebook, pen/pencil and small sharp scissors.

Students may e-mail instructor with any questions at halfmoonhollow@gmail.com

Special note: Students from these classes may stay and join The Punchettes for the evening hook-in.

DESIGN YOUR OWN RUG PUNCH CLASS (two dates are offered -- choose one)

Saturday, February 28, OR Saturday, March 28, 2009

2 hour session 9:30 am - 11:30 am; registration fee \$25.00

Open to students who have taken the "Intro to Rug Punch" class. Registrations fee includes a 24" X 24" finished piece of monk's cloth and additional class supplies. The session covers the techniques and processes necessary for taking an "idea" and transferring it onto monk's cloth and into a chair pad, rug, stair runner or mat. Color and yarn selection will be covered. Additional monk's cloth (\$7.50 for a finished 24" X 24" piece), and frames (\$17.50 for a 20" X 20") may be ordered from the instructor. Please order at least 7 days prior to the class date. Previous spring and summer 2008 students with frames smaller than 20" X 20" outside measurement should contact Tracey. Students are asked to bring their frame and Oxford rug punch needles, small sharp scissors, pencil and note-taking supplies. Students may e-mail the instructor with any questions at halfmoonhollow@gmail.com

PUNCHETTES HOOK-IN

Saturday, February 28, AND Saturday, March 28, 2009; 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Casual evening get-togethers to work on projects, share, learn, encourage and enjoy each other's company. Open to all previous students. There is no charge, but **YOU MUST CALL AHEAD** to sign up (724) 238-9320. If no one is signed up for a particular date, Tracey will not be staying.





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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Mondays, February 2, 2009, and March 2, 2009, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA...

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, February 10, 2009, and March 10, 2009, from 7 - 9 pm (rsvp please, in case of inclement weather) *****

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

***** FUN FRIDAYS, February 6, 2009; March 13, 2009; and April 3, 2009; 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff; rsvp (limited registration) *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce is available for help with your questions, skill-building and how-to's. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor.

***** UPCOMING KNITTING CLASSES (CALL FOR DETAILS) *****

"Inside-Outside Scarf" with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; Saturday, February 21, 2009; 9:30 am - 12:00 noon; registration fee \$25.00* (includes pattern)

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

Intermediate Knitting with Tracey Earhart Saturday, February 21, 2009, 1 pm - 3:30 pm; registration fee \$25.00*

A skill-building class that goes beyond the basics! Learn more about increasing, decreasing, finishing, interpreting patterns & more challenging projects.

Beginning Knitting with Tracey Earhart Saturday, March 21, 2009, 9:30 am - 12N; registration fee \$25.00*

An introductory how-to class for novice knitters of all ages including casting on, knit, purl and binding off.

"Stash Buster" Scarf Party with Kathy Zimmerman Saturday, March 21, 2009, 1 pm - 4 pm registration fee \$25.00*

Bring oddlots of 5-7 balls of yarn (and some to share, if you wish) & a US size 10.5 circular needle 29" length to learn how to knit the famous sideways scarf.

*Registration fee must be pre-paid at the time of registration to reserve a space in class. If you need to cancel, we will refund tuition up to 48 hours prior to the class. After that, we will refund half of the tuition in the form of a store credit. Unless noted, class fees do not include materials. Classes without a minimum of 4 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for inclement weather. Students may pre-register for classes by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathys-kreations.com

Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.

Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 28 years!

Wishing you perfection and contentment with every stitch -- KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy