



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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FEBRUARY 2012 UPDATE



Dear Stitches,

Jack Frost and Old Man Winter are no match for knitters and crocheters with yarn. It's stitching season here at Kathy's Creations, with plenty of winter warm-up projects to keep you toasty, cozy and contented.

It's Leap Year -- got a "Leap List"? In Leap Year, you get one extra day to love someone. Enjoy the added bonus of one more day on the calendar to make something beautiful from your heart with your hands for someone you love. Or, try something new -- if you knit, try your hand at the free cool weather crochet cowl pattern on page 6; if you crochet, give knitting a whirl with the knitted cowl on page 5. Use your favorite sock yarn to make a pair of texting mitts for your favorite teen or a hip granny, embellish a scarf or shawl with beads, make a slouch hat for a campus co-ed, stitch some slippers for your sweetie, or finally conquer that one technique you have been meaning to master!

Trendy fashion accessories and one-skein projects continue to be very popular with our customers. One prevailing trend in neckwear is the bandana cowl. Casually tied around the neck, it tops off everything from your favorite T-shirt and jeans to a date night dinner-and-a-movie outfit. The bandana is a sassy, chic touch that will update your look with style and sophistication. Get a first look at our new yarns and designs for spring 2012 this month -- it will warm your heart and soul. Go for it!

FEBRUARY IS "TAKE A LEAP" MONTH

**All regularly-priced FIESTA YARNS (all weights & types)
in stock are 10% off throughout February 2012**

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, AX
Private knitting, crochet, spinning, and drop spindle
instructions are available by appointment
Finishing services & gift certificates available
Shopping at Kathy's Creations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON



Kathy's Creations

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



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Give your wardrobe a fresh start with inspired designs and a pop of color! Refreshing your wardrobe doesn't have to mean major acquisitions -- a few handmade accessories or one versatile cardigan can go a long way toward updating your own personal fashion statement. It's not too early to think about transitional wear -- knit and crochet garments that work well for sweater weather and beyond. Spark your creativity with these special collections...

Knitter's Magazine K105 (\$5.95) is all about texture and form. Editor Rick Mondragon tells us: "Playing with knits and purls offers the ability to create the fabrics and shapes that you love. Mix in a few clever ideas -- beads, lace, or I-cord -- and you are on the road to creating stunning pieces. Simple stitches, cool ideas, and amazing yarns result in a bevy of projects worthy of your time".

Decreases and increases strategically paired and placed can create ripples or waves within the body of a garment, with the bonus of shaped hemlines. We are thrilled that three of Kathy's designs are included in this issue, and two of them feature ripples and waves (inspired by a trip to the beach!). And they are:

--- **Make waves** in a quartz-colored, ripple-stitch top made in ROWAN "Lima", a luxurious chainette yarn (\$12.95, 50 grams, 109 yards, 84% baby alpaca / 8% merino wool / 8% nylon, CYCA #4). Shown at upper left, this sculpted pullover seems to have been carved from quartz. The textured ripple in stockinette and the reverse stockinette with eyelet accents blend perfectly with the soft coloration and sleek silhouette.

--- **Ripple Effect** with 3-row stripes worked in two colors knit with K1,C2 "Linus" wool. This vest, shown lower right, is perfect with its flashes of color accents placed within the yarns. The 3-row stripes begin with a scallop border and then flow into a column lace. The tunic length is perfect for this casual sleeveless cardie with contrasting trims.

--- **Acapulco and Old Lace** is succulent in its soft coral and all-over lace (shown page 7, lower left). This trans-seasonal jacket offers a classic look with the individuality that only hand knitting can provide. The graphically pleasing lace stitches are as perfect for the office as they are for resort or cruisewear. With its simple closure and three-quarter sleeves, you cannot help but make it a wardrobe staple. Knit with SKACEL ZITRON Savanna (\$9.50, 50 grams, 110 yards, 60% cotton / 20% linen / 20% rayon, CYCA #3), the rich color and beautiful stitchwork are ready for work or play.

No matter your lifestyle or interests, this collection of knits is a great play of color, texture, shape, and form. Be sure to read the tips for shaping in lace and rules for dealing with single and double decreases when working necklines (it's a keeper!)

From coloring your knits with duplicate stitch to understanding multicolor yarns to playing with stripes to the palettes of spring and creamy neutrals, KNITSCENE Spring 2012 (\$7.99) approaches color and yarn from many angles. Editor Lisa Shroyer writes: "Color is important to knitters. It's such a part of the creative experience -- from choosing a yarn to admiring the fabric as it grows to wearing the final product. The color of your yarn is a huge part of what makes knitting good for the soul". Our favorite design from this issue is the East Falls Hat featuring a sideways knit garter stitch cuff with button embellishment and quaker stitch ridged striped body knit with "Acadia" from THE FIBRE COMPANY introduced here last month...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

KATHY'S KREATIONS presents new original self-published designs from Kathy Zimmerman. "Marilee's Cowl" (\$5.00, shown right) is a seamless textured lace loop worked circularly. Wear it as a single long eternity scarf, or wrap double as a cowl for added warmth. The staggered openwork pattern looks fantastic when knit with a luxurious hand-painted fingering weight merino wool yarn. Our model is knit from DREAM IN COLOR "Smoochy" (\$24.50, 100% Australian merino wool superwash, 100 grams, 450 yards, CYCA #2).



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Tracey Earhart photo

"Russian Rib Scarf" (\$4.00, shown upper left page 4) is an easy-knit textured rib scarf with thermal properties. It is worked from SKACEL COLLECTION's "Simpliworsted by HiKoo" (\$13.95, 100 grams, 140 yards, 55% merino superwash / 28% acrylic / 17% nylon, CYCA #4), a soft yarn with a wonderful hand and excellent stitch definition. The shade is margarita, one of the top 10 Pantone colors for 2012...

Did you make a New Year's resolution to be more organized in 2012? A new needlecase from JORDANA PAIGE may be just what you need! Store and organize your knitting and crochet tools in one smart and sassy compact case, the "Crafter's Tool Butler" (\$55.00). The vegan, pebbled leather caddy makes carrying your collection of double-pointed needles, circular needles and crochet hooks a breeze. And with custom tab inserts and a needle inventory chart, you'll always know exactly what's in your collection. The caddy features six flat pockets for all sizes of needles and hooks, four zippered accordion pockets for circular knitting needles with label inserts for custom numbering, a mesh pocket for small items such as safety pins, stitch markers and tapestry needles. Available in red, bronze, eggplant and black, ready to fill up!

The ROWAN label is recognized worldwide and is synonymous with classic style and quality. "Kidsilk Stripe" (\$29.95, 50 grams, 70% super kid mohair / 30% silk, 465 yards, CYCA #1) is a self-striping version of uber-popular "KidSilk Haze". The color combinations have been cleverly put together by master of color Kaffe Fassett and, when knitted as a scarf, will compliment any outfit. One 50-gram ball is enough to knit a scarf and can also be knitted to any "KidSilk Haze" pattern. We've got all six delightful shades: twilight, sugar, cool, forest, frost, and circus, plus the yarn-specific pattern support booklet.

ROWAN "Summerspun" (\$12.50, 50 grams, 50% merino wool / 50% cotton, 131 yards, CYCA #3) is a beautiful wool and cotton blend yarn. The yarn is uniquely made by twisting a printed cotton end and a melange wool together, resulting in a wonderful; subtle striping effect. Available in 12 lovely shades along with the yarn-specific pattern support booklet, "Summerspun" is a joy to knit and crochet...

Have you heard of FROG TREE YARNS Pink Project kits to benefit breast cancer research? We've got shawls and wrap kits "Lady Jane" wrap (\$37.25), Buttoned Neck Wrap & Scarf (\$22.75) and "Neap Tide" (\$37.25) made from luxurious alpaca yarns in shades of pink...



New from LISA KNITS is "Chevrons" (\$5.00, shown left), a colorful chevron stripe hat and texting mitts set. Knit with REGIA self striping sock yarn (\$8.50, 50 grams, 230 yards, 75% superwash wool / 25% polyamide, CYCA #2), this duo is as much fun to knit as it is to wear. Love those mitts...

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Lisa Knits

*** ONE OR TWO SKEIN PROJECT IDEAS TO KNIT AND CROCHET **

Accessories are on-trend and easy to make. Combine function with fashion in a way only knitters and crocheters can. This is a very exciting time here at Kathy's Creations, as Kathy is launching a collection of self-published designs ("Russian Rib Scarf" shown right). In the next couple of months, we will be adding more selections for your knitting pleasure and these will be available for purchase online...



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Tracey Earhart photo

Make heads turn! The clever and fun designs of *Weekend Hats* (\$22.95, softcover book) will have knitters everywhere rejoicing in year-round hat style. Cecily Glowik MacDonald and Melissa LaBarre offer a charming and fun-loving collection of designer knitted hat patterns. The most-knit hat from this book is "Brier Toque" (shown lower left), a simple stockinette-stitch hat with an easy-fit ribbed brim is always a welcome gift. The use of a self-striping yarn and the slouchy shaping update this classic shape, which is suitable for guys or gals. If your teens and co-eds are asking for a slouch hat, this is the style that is so popular on campus right now...

MOUNTAIN COLORS YARN produces gorgeous, multi-colored, hand-dyed yarns in beautiful colorways, perfect for a snow day, sledding or out on the ski slopes. They have excellent crochet pattern support (\$5.50 each): the "Crocheted Winter Hat", "Crocheted Gloves" and "Crocheted Kids Hat" (with earflaps and braid ties). Simple single crochet looks fabulous when worked with MOUNTAIN COLORS. Knitted counterpart pattern support (\$5.50 each) includes "Twizzle Beanie" (a fun slip stitch pattern), and adult & child's ski hats with garter stitch, stockinette and garter textured crown, earflaps and braids...

GRACE AKHREM has two slouch hat designs that are fun to make and stylish to wear. "Maid Marian" (\$6.50) is a crocheted hat featuring an overlapping sideways crochet shell stitch brim with button embellishment and half double-crochet crown. The knit version is "Robin Hood" (\$6.75) with an overlapping sideways knit garter stitch band and button embellishment and stockinette crown. Both look fabulous in monochromatic kettle-dyed yarns or rustic tweeds...

Cute knits for the wee ones include TOT TOPPERS "Roar Stegosaurus Mittens" (\$6.50) that are dino-inspired, fast and easy. Mitts are knit first, then stitches for spikes are picked up and knit for seamless construction (available in sizes preemie through child large). PICK UP STICKS "Cupcake Hat" (\$6.50) is a darling topper worked with worsted weight yarn for babies and toddlers. LISA KNITS "Strawberry Patch" (\$5.00) is a sweet set for babies and toddlers with an eyelet pattern strawberry hat, headband and matching booties...

One of our top 10 best sellers of 2011, PAM POWERS KNITS "Ruffled & Ruched Scarf" (\$7.50) in both DK & worsted weight is a charming ruffled neck warmer with a knitted rose embellishment. Never tried knitting a "ruche"? Pam helps you through with pictorial "how-to's"...



Choose a colorful sock yarn to make KALAMAZOO KNITS "Maiden Touch" fingerless mitts with long ribbed cuffs (\$6.50). These will help you keep you warm while you stay "in touch", texting or on your I-Pad...

*** KNITTING TIPS AND TRICKS ***

If you are casting on a large number of stitches with long-tail cast on method and are concerned about how long to make the tail to avoid running out, Kathy has this suggestion. Hold together one end from the outside of the ball and one end from the center. Make a slip knot with both pieces of yarn. Work long-tail cast on from both ends of the ball until you have the desired number of stitches. Cut the end from the outside of the ball and knit from the center. The slip knot will be your first two stitches.

*** A FIRST LOOK AT YARN TRENDS FOR 2012 ***

Classics and basics never go out of style, but look for some novelty yarns to reappear on the scene. KNITSCENE Spring 2012 tells us that novelty goes modern with ruffle yarns, chainettes, and sleek metallics (like PLYMOUTH "Joy Metallic" arriving soon). We're seeing lots of ribbon yarns that can be flattened and knitted to create tiered ruffles (BERROCO "Lacey" now in stock). The trend of chainette and tubular-constructed yarns continue, and there's a move toward tape yarns that make plush fabric much like terry cloth. Metallics remain strong, but have become more subtle. Hand-dyed and slubby cellulose yarns round out the obvious trends. It's a fun time to knit and crochet...

*** CREATIVITY AND HEALTH***

Creativity is defined as "the ability to make new things or think of new ideas". In order to be creative, you need to view things in a new way or from a different perspective. You need to be able to generate new possibilities or new alternatives with imagination and originality. Kimberly Ruth writes in an article in *Rumi'nations Winter 2012* magazine: "There are several reasons why creativity helps us to improve our overall health. When we choose an activity that we enjoy, we are able to relax and let go of daily stress. A balanced life is a healthy life. We function more effectively when we have a balance between work and leisure. Secondly, it helps us to feel confident and competent. When we try something new and enjoy it, we build self-confidence and generally feel better about ourselves. Thirdly, it stimulates the brain. Many of us have heard that we should engage in new stimulating activities to ward off the effects of aging on the brain and to remain mentally sharp. Lastly, creative arts can be a way to express feelings without the use of words. When we are able to express our feelings and emotions without judgment, we are able to reduce stress and move through difficult problems in an effective healthy manner. Creativity can also be used as a tool for healing."

*** QUAKER STITCH RIDGE COWL ***

SIZES: Ladies' short cowl (Infinity length in parentheses, shown left)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS: 33" around X 6" (44" around X 7")

MATERIALS: DK weight yarn 240 (480) yards, CYCA #3, suggested yarn JAMES BRETT

"Marble DK"; US size 7 circular knitting needle, 24" (29") length or size needed to obtain gauge; stitch marker; tapestry needle for finishing
GAUGE: 5 sts / 8 rows = 1" in pattern

DIRECTIONS: Using cable cast-on method, loosely cast on 165 (220) stitches. Place marker and join, being careful not to twist stitches. Work in pattern of knit 5 rounds, purl 5 rounds until piece measures 6" (7") or desired length (or until almost out of yarn). Bind off all stitches loosely in pattern. Weave in ends.



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*** WEBSITE NEWS ***

Our webmaster Tim has been updating our website. Please check out our new home page with details about us and our new storefront sign. We have started a photo gallery with interior pictures of the shop and the products we feature, a scrapbook of knitting friends & workshop instructors, plus photos that our customers shared of Fun Friday gatherings and stitching group "stash enrichment" field trips. If you would like to share photos of your visits to any of our meet-ups or "success stories" showing projects purchased here, please e-mail them to kathy@kathys-kreations.com. If your photo is chosen to be added to our gallery, you will receive your choice of a free knitting needle or crochet hook (any brand, any style in stock)...

*** COOL WEATHER CROCHET COWL ***

A perfect accent to any outfit, this crochet cowl by Allison Wallace, shown lower right, may be worn draped over a sweater, doubled up as a scarf, or over the head as a hood. We are grateful to KRAEMER YARNS for permitting us to re-print this pattern and hope that it will inspire you to take a leap and learn crochet!

SKILL LEVEL: Beginner

MATERIALS: KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection Worsted" 3 skeins; size I (5.5 mm) crochet hook or size needed to obtain gauge; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 13 stitches / 8 rows = 4" in stitch pattern

Special Abbreviation: SC tbl - single crochet through the back loop

INSTRUCTIONS: Chain 45 stitches.

Row 1: SC (single crochet) in the 3rd chain from hook, SC in each chain stitch across row. Chain 1 and turn: 43 stitches.

Row 2: SC tbl across row, chain 1 and turn.

Repeat row 2 until piece measures 55", or desired length. Do not chain 1. Fasten off.

Finishing: Fold in half to join short ends and sew together with tapestry needle to form a ring. To give the cowl a little flair, you can turn one side over for a twisted cowl effect. Weave in ends and block if needed.

*** A NOTE ABOUT CROCHET GAUGE ***

To check gauge, chain 30 to 40 stitches using the hook size recommended in the pattern. Work in pattern stitch as specified until piece measures 4" (10 cm) from foundation chain. Block the swatch by pinning out on a flat surface such as a thick towel or blocking board and mist lightly with clean room temperature water in a spray bottle. We add just a tiny drop of Eucalan to the water to help break up surface tension. Place a ruler over the swatch and count the number of stitches across and the number of rows down in 4" (10 cm), including fractions because this will make a difference over the width and length of the piece. Take measurements from two or three different areas to confirm measurements. We carry a terrific pocket-size tool from KNIT PICKS called a "view sizer" (\$3.50) to help you check your hook size and measurements. This tool has a see-through bar with a red line measuring 4" and 10 cm. It is very helpful in counting both stitches and rows.

What to do if you do not get gauge? If you have more stitches and rows than called for in the pattern, try a larger hook; if you have fewer, use a smaller hook. Work another swatch until you get the correct gauge. It is OK to use whatever size hook you need to get the correct gauge as long as the resulting fabric is appropriate (not too loose or too thick)...



*** "WE LOVE KATHY'S" KAL

Linda Lash is co-ordinating a Ravelry KAL (knit-along) for Kathy's "Cable & Textured Vest" designed with KRAEMER YARNS.



A finished sample of the vest and a matching hat and mitts are on display here at Kathy's Creations, worked with KRAEMER YARNS "Alpaca Handknitting Yarn" (\$15.50, 100 grams, 220 yards, 70% alpaca / 30% merino, CYCA #3) . It's not too late to join the KAL and new members are welcome at "We Love Kathy's" group (don't be shy) -- we would love to have you join in on the fun! Some of us are still at the casting on stage and the vest is a work in progress. The pattern is available for free at www.kraemeryarns.com, where you can view sizing and yarn requirements. For questions, please contact Linda Lash ("International Girl" on Ravelry).

*** WHERE'S KATHY??? ***

--- 8th Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival; Sheraton North; Mars, PA; Friday, February 10, 2012 1:30 pm - 6:30 pm; Saturday, February 11, 2012; 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sunday, February 12, 2012, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Kathy's large double booth (#2 & #3) will feature yarns, patterns, needles, a variety of free live technique demos, and Kathy's latest never-seen-before original pattern designs (premiering at this show), which she will gladly autograph. "Meet & Greet" with Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS is scheduled for Saturday in our booth during Market hours. For info, e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com or call 412-963-7030.

Six projects from Kathy's Creations will be featured in Friday evening's fashion show: from CHURCHMOUSE, One Big Granny Square Afghan crocheted with TRENDSETTER YARNS "Tonalita"; Kathy's three Bedford Spring Shawls knit with KRAEMER YARNS "Fountain Hill"; two of Kathy's designs from the pages of Knitter's Magazine ("Bobbled Braids" from *The Best of Knitter's: Arans & Celts* book and "Redrocks" from K102 knit with K1,C2 Ty-Dy Cotton). During the Fashion Show, Kathy will be making a special presentation to a very special knitter who was influential in her career. This year's Festival promises to be the biggest and best yet, and certainly the largest knit & crochet happening in western Pennsylvania!

--- Save the Date: Kathy Zimmerman and Carol Smith are pleased and excited to host the next Kathy's Creations Workshop, "Spring Break", to be held in Ligonier, PA, on April 20 - April 22, 2011 at the Ramada Inn of Ligonier. The cost is \$175 per person which includes the "Sideways Cabled Hat" 9-hour workshop with Kathy, breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday, Friday night knitting party at Kathy's Creations, with additional details and activities to be announced. We will allow free time to shop in Ligonier and will give "goodie bags" with discounts/special offers from the local merchants, as well as a weekend shop discount to attendees.



To reserve a space for the workshop, mail your check for \$175 to Kathy's Creations; 141 East Main Street; Ligonier, PA 15658. For info, questions, and registration details, e-mail kathy@kathys-creations.com or call 724-238-9320. Space is limited and reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis as payments are received, so please don't delay as registration is already filling up quickly.

Rooms may be reserved by calling the Ramada at Historic Ligonier; 216 West Loyalhanna Street; Ligonier, PA (724) 238-9545. Mention that you are attending the workshop to receive a special rate.



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

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are **February 6, 2012, and March 5, 2012, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**. All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, February 14, 2012 and March 13, 2012; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome to come, sit & stitch! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, February 17, 2012 and March 16, 2012; 10 am - 2 pm *****

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

***** RAVELRY GROUP MEET AND GREET *****

For those of you who are going to the Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival, members of the "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group will be gathering on Friday evening, **February 10, 2012**, at the Ravelry MeetUp at the close of Friday's Market at 6:30 pm (ask at the registration desk for meeting place). Our regular Meet & Greet gathering will resume at Kathy's Kreations on Saturday morning, **March 10, 2012; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. Please bring your knitting, crocheting and any projects to show and share. We meet on the second Saturday of every month. All group members will receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced merchandise purchases on this "Meet and Greet Day". Not a member? Ask us how you can join!

***** "CABLE TOSS MITTS" KNITTING CLASS with instructor Barbara McIntire; Saturday, February 18, 2012; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$25.00 registration (includes pattern)*****

Fingerless texting mitts and working with double-pointed needles are our most requested class topics. Now you can learn how-to's for both in this fun class with Barbara McIntire herself! Barbara's instructions will feature a hands-on mitts project using her original design, "Cable Toss Mitts" (shown upper left). Students will learn how to work with double-pointed needles in the round, how to work a basic cable, how to make a mitten thumb using waste yarn and more. Student supplies include 125 yards heavy worsted weight yarn, US size 6 double-pointed needles, and a cable needle. Supplies may be purchased prior to or on the day of class...

Private knitting, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. We would be glad to do a specific class for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 31 years !

Life is a special occasion. Let your creative juices flow. There are many avenues for creativity -- we just have to access them. Make it a priority to reconnect with creative things you love to do. It will truly be a gift that you have given yourself. You supply the creativity, and we'll supply everything else.

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!

Kathy