



KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
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JANUARY 2010 UPDATE



Dear Knitters & Stitchers,

Did you know that British magazine *The Knitter* issue twelve has named our Kathy Zimmerman as one of the "Who's Who of North American Knitting Designers"?

Shining a light on key figures in knitting, *The Knitter* says in the article's introduction, "The US is such a large country, with a rich history of arts and crafts, it's no surprise that so many top designers call it home... they share ideas and advice with knitters across the globe. This list is just a selection of the ones we believe have had the biggest impact on knitting worldwide". What an honor and a thrill for Kathy!

Kathy's Kreations is a direct reflection of Kathy's style and body of work. We welcome the new decade with a renewed awareness of something special about knitting, crocheting and stitching at this time of year. There is a sense of purpose every time we start a row. Shades of yarn are rich, deep, rustic and often heathered or tweedy. The fibers are comforting, with interesting blends, strongly featuring luxurious merino wool or alpaca this season. What will you cast on next? We've got a lot to offer -- a fashionable feast awaits and we cordially invite you to stop in soon!

"IT'S SWEATER WEATHER!"

**10% off all regularly-priced bulky-weight* yarns
in stock during January 2010
(CYCA yarn classification 5 and 6)**

**Winter Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday
Open 12 noon - 4:00 pm Sunday, January 24, 2010 (Ice Fest Weekend)**

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

Private knitting, crochet, spinning and rug punch 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

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please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

It's a brand new year, a new decade, an exciting adventure to unfold. We hope that you've made "more stitching time" one of your 2010 Resolutions. Each day is a journey -- knitting and crochet are portable, wonderful travelling companions, so be sure to have a "take-along" project.

Winter also brings with it the cold. If the snow, ice and freezing winds get you down, keep in mind this thought: "If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will change". The drop in temperature offers a daily opportunity to bundle up in your own beautifully, handmade knits!

KNITTER'S MAGAZINE Winter 2009 (\$5.95) is a collection to keep you warm now and well into spring, with projects that will impress knitters and non-knitters alike. Whether or not we believe that knitting is art, we can all agree that it is a craft full of pleasure and accomplishment. We have wonderful fibers and the skills to make soft and cozy things for those we love -- doing what we love for the ones we love.

What a joy it is to showcase the projects in this issue! The theme is soft geometry -- lite lessons in slip stitches, helical knits, corrugated knits and leaf motifs. Lite lessons are designed to make it easy to try new techniques you may not have done before. Place color into your knitting with horizontal stripes, go perpendicular with vertical stripes and cables, or celebrate texture with soft cables and interlocking stitch motifs any time of year.

We are thrilled that three of Kathy's sweater designs are featured in this mix. *Scupted Copper*, shown upper left, challenges the look of fine sculpture with its stitch definition and shimmering yarn: "No coppersmith could forge a work as splendid as this knit. The cables envelop one another in a symphony of twists and turns". This sweater was worked with GEDIFRA "Samina", now in stock (\$9.50, 50 grams, 165 yards, 75% new wool / 25% nylon, CYCA yarn classification 4). The flow of traveling stitches and cables in *Wayward Leaves*, shown lower right, reminds us that spring is on the way: "The trio of lacy leaf panels combines with paired ribbing make for a fun, chill-chasing pullover -- classic and elegant". And *Silver Bracts*, perfect for daily wear is shown on page 3, lower left: "A simple pullover becomes a work of art with interlocking leaf motifs. Worked in a neutral gray, it will extend well into spring., becoming a go-to sweater for those chilly mornings".

Crochet continually amazes us with its capacity for renewal and invention. INTERWEAVE CROCHET Winter 2009 (\$6.99) revitalizes the craft by creating "new ways" to crochet. In this issue, designers explore the world of Tunisian crochet and there are traditional crochet surprises as well, in several intriguingly textured projects featuring bobbles, cables and spikes. There are 21 stylish designs for winter warmth plus 5 quick accessories. Have a look, be amazed, enjoy crocheting!

VOGUE KNITTING Winter 2009 /10 (\$6.99) offers clever classics, exotic traditional Fair Isle designs, timeless colorwork, ladylike pinks, and vintage men's wear. Don't let the winter blues keep you inside. Welcome frosty weekend mornings with clever Alpine mittens. There are hot coverups for chilly days in shades of gray to show off sophisticated stitchwork and texture (gray is a smoky hot trend). And don't forget trendsetting wraps and neckpieces -- as far as finishing touches go, these wraps stand shoulders above the average accessory...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

New and knittable is LISA KNITS "City Streets" HT-024 (\$4.00, shown right). Wrap up in a cozy beanie-style hat and matching scarf from designer Lisa Carnahan, a reminder of warm days to come. Our display model is knit from a denim-friendly shade of ROWAN "Lima" (\$12.95, 50 grams, 109 yards, CYCA yarn classification 4). If you haven't checked out this yarn, it resembles an I-cord chain, is very light yet thermal...



© 2009 Lisa Knits

PIECEWORK MAGAZINE January/ February 2010 (\$6.99) is the 4th annual Historical Kniting Issue. INTERWEAVE PRESS has selected articles and projects that provide glimpses into the rich, centuries-old, and sometimes poignant history of this beloved craft. The articles and techniques provide the "threads" that connect today's knitting with those of the past. One of the exciting exclusives is a new diamond basketweave pattern stitch from knitting legend Barbara G. Walker. There are contemporary socks inspired by a 17th century "circling purls" pattern, "church" mitts (a variation of today's fingerless mitts) by Nancy Bush, traditional Ice Harbor Compass mittens by Robin Hansen, and theatrical knits. This is a fascinating read, not to be missed...

Looking for some colorful yarns that knit up quickly into sensational hats, mittens and scarves? Our two latest fun faves are from NASHUA HANDKNITS. "Sitar" (\$8.50, 50 grams, 82 yards, 51% wool / 49% acrylic, CYCA yarn classification 4) is a thick and thin loosely spun single ply yarn that appears to be layers of stacked, vibrant colors. "Vignette" (\$10.50, 50 grams, 93 yards, 100% superwash wool, CYCA yarn classification 5) is a cord-like chain with rainbow-like variations...

New kettle-dyed semi-solid and variegated shades of our popular MANOS DEL URAGUAY "Rittenhouse Merino 5-Ply" are here (\$14.50, 100 grams, 241 yards, 100% pure superfine merino wool, CYCA yarn classification 4). Semi-solids are "what's new, what's next" in the world of handpainted yarns. Be sure to check out our LISA KNITS shop model "Nora's Shawl" in lovely teal tones (profits from pattern sales benefit ovarian cancer awareness), beautifully handknit by our knitting instructor Joyce Bischoff...

Are you ready for a breath of spring to calm winter's blast? Crafty frills and bold color palettes are on trend for spring, with yarn-inspired designs at every turn. We are so impressed with BERROCO's "Origami" yarn that we stock it in every shade! Many multi-colored strands run parallel to each other, wrapped by a thin binder (\$8.50, 50 grams, 98 yards, 58% acrylic / 16% linen / 15% nylon / 11% cotton, CYCA yarn classification 4). One of our customers (Hi, Judy T!) chose this for LISA KNITS "Light & Lacy" wrap because of the gorgeous drape and remarkably light, crisp finished fabric. BERROCO pattern support booklet 294 (\$8.50) features knit and crochet kimono-style swing jackets, cute knit short-sleeved tops and vests (ideal for spring layering) and a crusher-style flipped brim crochet hat...



New shades of the following tried-and-true five best-selling 2009 yarns have arrived: KOLLAGE YARNS "Fantastic" and "Glisten"; NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia"; JAMES BRETT "Marble", "Baby Marble", and "Marble Chunky"; BROWN SHEEP "Lambs' Pride Worsted", "Lambs Pride Bulky" and "Nature Spun Worsted"; and in the top spot, PLYMOUTH YARNS "Encore"...

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*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Anna Zilboorg is quoted as saying: "One of the most basic human needs is to make necessity beautiful". Some see Anna's mittens as joyful riffs on color and pattern -- one exuberant step removed from their ethnic source. Others appreciate their structure -- a dynamic merging of innovation and minimalism. The new expanded edition of *Magnificent Mittens & Socks* (\$24.95, softcover, shown upper left) includes Anna's toe-up, free-sole sock design. With stranded patterning on the top of the foot and a plain sole, it is elastic, easily reinforced, and easily repaired -- wherever and whenever the inevitable happens. No longer are color-patterned socks too much work for too little wear.

The beauty of warm hands and feet is extolled in this beautiful book, with fully illustrated, step-by-step instructions for the basic mitten method and for 2-color knitting. There are 42 charted mittens with interchangeable cuff charts, 13 edge finishes for cuffs, 7 embellishments to add color and texture, luxurious linings, outline charts for design-your-own mittens and instructions for making socks using mitten charts. Now your socks can be as magnificent as your mittens...

*** TOP TEN BEST SELLING PROJECTS OF 2009 ***

Here they are -- the projects chosen by our customers throughout the past year. Accessories were very popular, with socks, scarves and neckwarmers leading the way...

10. ANN NORLING Short Row Multi-directional Scarf pattern #69: this pattern is great to show off a yarn with color changes, especially when double-wrapped around your neck
9. KOLLAGE YARNS Dynamic Duo Reversible Fingerless Mitts: worked with KOLLAGE 1/2 N 1/2 milk/merino wool combination, our best-selling kit
8. FIBER TRENDS Snowboarder Hats for Everyone #AC-91 designed by our own Tracey Earhart; knit in super chunky yarn or doubled bulky weight; they are soft & cozy, knit up fast on size 15 needles, and are super warm; make it tonight, wear it tomorrow; snowboarding is optional
7. ANN NORLING Head Huggers pattern #55: it's been a "beanie fest" of hats with this version of the "London Beanie" topping the list; worked with your choice of a variety of pattern stitches in four gauges
6. KNIT FOR THE CURE "Not So Lacy Lacy Scarf": our "fund-raising" scarf promoting ovarian cancer awareness; worked in MANOS DEL URAGUAY "Silk Blend DK"
5. LISA KNITS My First Top-Down Cardigan (SW-041) and Pullover (SW-042): Lisa's patterns are very knitter-friendly; many customers requested seamless sweaters (see our binder for other ideas from ANN NORLING and KNITTING PURE & SIMPLE)
4. TAHKI "Honeycomb Hat & Collar" Set knit with "Presto" yarn, from the "Folklorica" booklet L-09
3. IT'S A TIE! KNIT FOR THE CURE "Climbing Cables Hat": our fund-raising scarf promoting cancer research & education, designed by Lisa Carnahan in honor of Bucky; tied with sock, sock, sock patterns of all kinds
2. LISA KNITS "Quick & Cozy" AC-018: a textured rib short crossover scarf to make with bulky yarn and button adornment; with or without a ruffle; great stashbuster!
1. CLASSIC TO CREATIVE KNIT CABLES WITH KATHY ZIMMERMAN: this Knitting Daily Workshop DVD helped many of our customers learn simple to complex cabling techniques, step-by-step featuring Kathy's "Deep Creek Scarf" and "Princess Cable Sweater"

*** WHO'S WHO? ***

So exactly what did British magazine *the Knitter* say about Kathy Zimmerman in their recent "Who's Who of North American Designers" installment? Here it is, and Kathy is so pleased to be included with such an outstanding group of remarkable designers.

"To encapsulate what knitting style sums up Kathy is straightforward -- cables. Her self-confessed nickname is The Queen of Cables and it is easy to see how she takes full advantage of her passion for them: 'Making a good marriage of stitchwork with yarn inspires me -- what pattern will best show off a yarn's beauty. I am partial to quality merino wool yarns, and I look out for ones with wonderful handle and exquisite stitch detail,' she enthuses. 'My specialty is designing sweaters that feature cables and textured stitchwork. Each one tells a story with its stitches.'

She explains that one of her greatest pleasures is being asked to design and knit for yarn companies and knitting magazines. 'I love developing new designs for marketing new yarns, and combining parts of different cables, sometimes with textured backgrounds, to create something new. I want to combine bits and pieces of other cables, to tell my own stories.'

Kathy cites Kristin Nicholas, Michelle Rose Orne, and also Alice Starmore as great inspirations. As the owner of a yarn shop, she takes her cue from her customers. 'They want classic, well-fitting designs that they'll enjoy wearing, made from yarns that they'll enjoy knitting,' she says.

*** CROCHET CORNER ***

To get more pronounced points at the corners of Granny Square motifs, try placing a taller stitch in each corner stitch of the motif. For example, if you are making a double crochet square, place a treble crochet in place of the center double crochet in each of the four corners. If the corner is made with a chain, add an extra chain...

*** BIRTHDAY COWL ***

Snoods, cowls, eternity scarves, and tubes are this season's hottest accessory and ones that will keep you snug when winter winds blow. The pattern originated on Ravelry by Nova Seals, and was adapted with permission for MANOS "Silk-Blend" by Susan Shabo of "I'd Rather Be Knitting", who graciously shared this pattern with us (thanks, Susan!). If you haven't checked out this wonderful 30% silk / 70% merino superfine kettle-dyed wool, take our word for it that it is a truly special yarn, one worthy of a truly special handmade birthday gift. Our shop model was knit by Karen McCullough (thanks, Karen!).

MATERIALS: one skein MANOS DEL URAGUAY Silk-Blend (30% silk / 70% merino DK weight, 50 grams, 150 yards); US size 7 16" circular knitting needle; one stitch marker

GAUGE: 5 sts = 1" in stitch pattern

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 88 stitches. Place marker and join, being careful not to twist. Work 5 rounds of garter stitch (P 1 round, K 1 round, P 1 round, K 1 round, P 1 round).

Begin pattern stitch:

Round 1: *slip 1 as if to purl, K1, pssso, K6, yo, K3; repeat from * around.

Round 2: K.

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 until cowl measures 9" (or desired length), ending with round 1. Work 5 rounds of garter stitch, starting with a purl round.

Bind off loosely. Weave in ends and enjoy!

Abbreviations: K- knit; P - purl; yo - yarn over needle; pssso - pass slipped stitch over





*** DIAGONAL SCARF WITH KEYHOLE ***

It's fun -- it's easy -- thanks to Susan Shabo for sharing this pattern with us.

MATERIALS: One skein COLINETTE "Isis"; knitting needles US #10

GAUGE: approx. 2.5 sts = 1" (not critical)

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 2 stitches.

Row 1: Increase in each stitch.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: Increase in first stitch, knit to last stitch, increase in last stitch. Repeat rows 2 & 3 until the side edge measures 4.5", ending with row 2. Count your stitches and mark it down here: _____ (just so you'll be able to stay on track!)

Continue as follows:

Row 1: Increase in first stitch, knit to last 2 stitches, K2tog (knit 2 together).

Row 2: Knit.

Repeat these 2 rows until piece measures about 10 - 11", then make keyhole:

Keyhole: on next row, bind off the center 6 stitches. On the following row, cast on 6 stitches over the previously bound-off stitches. Work as established until approx. 5 yards of yarn remains, ending with a knit row.

Finish the corner as follows:

Row 1: K2tog, knit to the last 2 stitches, K2tog.

Row 2: Knit.

Repeat these 2 rows until 2 stitches remain. K2tog and fasten off. Wear with flair!

Kathy's knitting tip: Place a pin or marker at the beginning of the increase / decrease row. Move it along as the scarf grows, to help you remember which row you are working...

*** BE PART OF INTERNATIONAL RUG PUNCH DAY WITH TRACEY EARHART ***

Certified Oxford Rug Punch instructor Tracey Earhart will conduct an all-day workshop on Saturday, February 6, 2010, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at Kathy's Creations. Beginner through Intermediate rug punch skills will be covered. No previous experience is necessary. Registration fee is \$125.00, limited to the first 8 students with paid registration, and includes lunch, a 20" x 20" rug punch frame, monks cloth for your project, use of templates and patterns, instruction, and much more. This workshop explores the use of a variety of yarns and needles. The student chooses the type of project they would like to make such as a chair pad, trivet, pillow top, table mat or ornaments. The Oxford Punch Needles and yarns for your project are additional purchases, and will be available to buy during the workshop. For details, contact Tracey Earhart by e-mail halfmoon hollow@gmail.com or phone (724) 668-7017.

In the event that you would need to cancel, \$100.00 will be refunded up to January 23rd. After January 23rd, 50% of the total cost -- \$62.50 will be refunded, due to advance class preparations and supplies. If we would need to cancel the workshop due to weather conditions, the workshop will be rescheduled for a later date.

*** KNITTING TIP ***

If you run out of yarn for your project, and can't get the same dye lot, blend the two shades together as you knit. Reserve enough yarn from the original dye lot, and work two rows with the new dye lot, then two rows with the original. You may also use a circular needle, working across twice on the right side (one row with each dye lot), followed by working twice across the wrong side row. If you have equal amounts of the two lots, you may alternate rows throughout the project for consistency or disguise the difference by working the main part of the garment in one dye lot & the ribbings in the other...

*** ICE FEST ***

Don't let winter's chill get you down -- get out and enjoy it at the 19th Annual Ligonier Ice Fest! The town-wide event will be held Saturday January 23, 9 am - 5 pm and Sunday, January 24, 2010, 12 noon - 4 pm. This year's theme is "The Winter Olympics". Bundle up and come watch expert ice carver artisans at work creating one-of-a-kind masterpieces from blocks of ice. Stop in to see us -- just looking at all the gorgeous new yarns will give you that warm, fuzzy feeling. We will feature our annual indoor sidewalk sale, door prizes, and complimentary snacks. Don't forget to ask us about upcoming classes (projects on display) and activities...

*** 6th ANNUAL PITTSBURGH KNIT & CROCHET FESTIVAL ***

The premier tri-state Knit & Crochet Festival will be held Saturday, February 13, and Sunday, February 14, 2010, at the Four Points Sheraton in Mars, PA near I-79 & the Cranberry exit of the PA Turnpike. Kathy's Kreations will be in the same large double space as last year, in booths 2 & 3 near the entrance. For more information, visit www.pghknitandcrochet.com or call (412) 963-7030.

Attention, Ravelry members! Please wear your name badge to receive a 10% discount at our booth. If you are a member of the Kathy Zimmerman or "We Love Kathy's" Group, please let us know, as we will have a special gift for you...

*** WHAT'S YOUR NEXT PROJECT? ***

Winter projects conjure up thoughts of cozy, deep, plush, sculptured knits. Take inspiration from the natural world, from traditional textiles, and warming influences for sweaters and accessories that will keep you comfy when it's cold outdoors.

This season, look for fashions with deep pleats, folds, and creases -- clever gathers that serve a purpose, well-thought out asymmetrical shapes, garments constructed in unusual ways, dramatic collars and cowls, and pretty details. Let the combination of surface design, yarn, and color speak for itself. In home decor, try choosing a project that uses flat surfaces as a canvas for texture and hand-crafted details.

Bright colors, ethnic influences, embroidery -- take your cues from traditional knitting and textiles, for bohemian knits that bring a little sunshine to the long, gray winter. Delicate floral embroidery, colorwork that mimics ethnic prints, tartans and plaids, yoke sweaters (intricate but not overdone) -- folk-inspired but not folksy. Emphasize one great element for wearable heirlooms in sweaters, jackets, home decor, beautiful accessories, long socks and stockings, hats, scarves, mittens and felted projects. Keep the shapes clean and unfussy, with one beautiful detail (artsy, eclectic, light-hearted and embellished like a large button or closure).

Lace is a given in the summer, but consider deeply textured openwork patterns for winter (like Kathy's design for Kollage Yarns, Erica's Winter Lace) -- densely-knit traditional laces, graphic and geometric elements, clever openwork techniques, mohair halos, allover and double-layered fabrics. Cutwork-look lace layers over a solid base; deep plush edgings on a simple sweater or neck warmer, lightweight lace ruched and gathered for deep, warm shawl collars; chunky single yarns used for a deeply carved-look large-scale lace pattern on a dress or tunic. The look is modern but not frilly, densely textured, simple shapes, unexpected delicacy in austere, urban contexts. Think pretty tops, outerwear, shirts, AND accessories for everyone...



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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship, NOW meeting at Panera Bread Greengate, Greensburg, PA, on the first Monday of each month **beginning Monday, February 1, 2010, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.**



***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, January 12, 2010, and February 9, 2010, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

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

***** FUN FRIDAYS, January 15, 2010 and February 19, 2010; 10 am - 2 pm *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! An instructor 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 knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor...

***** "STASH BUSTERS -- Yours, Mine & Ours" *****

Saturday, January 16, 2010; 10 am - 3 pm with knitwear designer Kathy Zimmerman

Knit or crochet a stash buster sideways scarf! \$5.00 "admission" with bargain "stash" available to purchase. Please bring a US 10.5 29" circular knitting needles or US size J crochet hook, 3 balls yarn to share (or more), and something for a "pot luck" lunch...

***** UPCOMING SKILL-BUILDING CLASSES (class project samples on display) *****

"Bedford Springs Shawl" Saturday, January 9, 2010, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm with instructor Kathy Zimmerman; registration fee \$25.00 *

Kathy will teach three edgings -- a ruffle, a frill, and a scallop -- used in her original shawl design taught at the Omni Bedford Springs Knittreat last November. This design won't even be introduced to knit shop owners until the TNNA Needlework Market this month, so you'll be among the first to see and knit this wonderful wrap! Student class supplies include worsted weight yarn and US size 9 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 4 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for bad 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, Oxford rug punch, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for 30 years!

We wish you and your families the brightest and happiest New Year, summed up with this Irish proverb: "May you always have walls for the winds, a roof for the rain, tea beside the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you, and all your heart might desire". And, we might add -- a year filled with wonderful yarns, great projects, and contentment in every stitch.

2010 marks our 30th year in business. Thank you for shopping here -- the best is yet to come!

KEEP KNITTING!

Kathy