

July 2005 Update
KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier PA 15658

Dear Knitters,

Summer finds more visitors than ever stopping by Ligonier Valley, and we love meeting knitters & crocheters from all over the country (and the world, during the PGA Senior Tournament!). One husband who escorted his fiber-enthusiast wife to our shop proclaimed us to be "Knitter's Nirvana". We are humbled and pleased that customers have that reaction to our collection of quality yarns, design ideas and accessories.

Knitting has become part of a lifestyle for many knitters. Those who discovered or re-discovered knitting during the garter stitch scarf craze are moving on to more challenging projects (still easy and fun). Experienced knitters are finding new yarns and innovative designs have renewed their enthusiasm for felting and sweater projects again. And, of course, we are noticing a baby boom and have some cute ideas for little ones. We are here with the how-to's and inspiration to help you gain the skills and confidence needed to tackle projects that intrigue you -- YOU CAN DO IT!

Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS and Kathy have just returned from the annual fall/winter Needlearts trade show. They found some exciting new products which are starting to arrive now and will continue to come in over the next few months. Keep those needles and hooks clicking and, remember,

"HAPPINESS IS MORE YARN"

**10% off all single purchases of 2000 yards or more
of regularly-priced yarns in stock
during July 2005**

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 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

Fax 724-238-5585

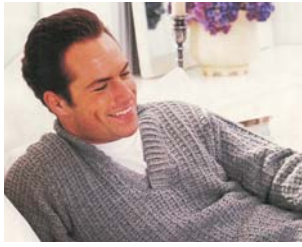
e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com

please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com

...if you plan on traveling by air this summer, you may wish to visit these sites for information on carry-on restrictions for knitting needles and accessories also, please check with your airlines

http://www.tsa.gov/public/interapp/editorial/editorial_1252.xml

<http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=177>



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

Summer has barely arrived, but our purl girls Lisa and Kathy have just returned from the fall buying show. New merchandise is starting to arrive, and it's time to start projects that you can wear later. Peruse our picks of the latest greatest yarns and accessories...

FAMILY CIRCLE EASY KNITTING Fall 2005 (\$5.99) is the first of next season's magazines to arrive. It's a Zoo -- there's something for every member of your menagerie inside, from an animal-themed mobile for baby to a cheeky monkey sweater for a child to playful pillows that pay homage to your best furry friend. Go wild over rugged men's sweaters, dramatic drop-stitch designs, ruffles and wraps, beginner projects, 1 mitten five ways, and much more. We are pleased that two of Kathy's men's knit designs are included. The deep V-neck pullover stitched in an overall textured rib (shown upper left) features a K1, P3 rib at the waist, sleeve cuffs and hemline, and is perfect for casual wear. The "Donegal Tweed" cabled V-neck vest (shown lower right) is fashioned in reverse stockinette, boasting a K2, P2 ribbing along an eight-button placket, neck, armholes and lower edges. The defining feature: intertwining diamond cables that highlight the front and continue on two matching panels on the back.

Exciting things are happening in fiber research and technology, at least partly driven by the need to use less petroleum. CLASSIC ELITE YARNS introduces a most exciting, environmentally-friendly fiber yarn, "Bam Boo" (\$7.95, 50 grams, 77 yards, 100% bamboo fiber). "Bam Boo" knits to 4.5 - 5 sts / inch on size 6 or 7 needles. The vegetation that is the "lunch-of-choice" for Panda bears turns out to be a fabulous fiber for handknitting as well. The short staple bamboo used for "Bam Boo" is easy to plant in China and enjoys a short growing cycle. The starchy bamboo pulp is refined in a manner similar to that used to produce Tencel, using less time to produce the pulp, less energy than that used to produce viscose, and recycling the chemicals used. Bamboo fiber takes color well, is a renewable resource, and has a natural, pearly sheen. In addition to its silky hand and drape, it is a naturally antibacterial, non-allergenic fiber, even after many washings. Bamboo fiber has excellent breathability, good ventilation properties (avoids absorbing odors), UV protection, and moisture evaporates easily...

Once in a while, a new pattern company comes along with some very impressive ideas. Enter TWO OLD BAGS. Here's a sampling (\$7.50 each):

The Lucy Bag -- a felted handbag or shoulder bag with a clever security closure

Bracelet Bags -- a practical little felted purse to carry on your wrist with costume bangle bracelets cleverly used as handles

Felted Bucket Bag -- three "feed-bag" style purses with button closure

Felted Shoulder Sling -- easy carryall with size determined by yarn weight

Harriet Handbag -- felted; use large knitting needles as the handles

Betty Bag -- mini-version of the bucket bag using ribbon & tape yarns

Evelyn Purse -- small evening purse with rectangular base, pleated

Flower Power -- felted clutch, coin purse & shoulder bag with flowers

The Pamela -- little evening purse made with novelty yarns

Double Handle Project Bag -- felted, a sturdy knitting tote

Warm Hands Felted Mittens -- the warmest

Snow Forest Lace Stole -- a rectangular garter stitch lace design stole



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

Summer will be reaching its peak soon, and we want you to be ready with warm weather knits and cool knitting projects to beat the heat.

From their studio in Ontario, Canada, the designers from CABIN FEVER bring you 17 delightful hats for the special children in your life. *Kids' Knitted Hats* (\$12.50) includes great projects for experienced as well as beginning knitters. The kids will have as much fun wearing these hats as you'll have knitting them. Other new patterns from CABIN FEVER include:



#075 50X50 Poncho (\$5.50) -- clever, tailored ladies' poncho based on the number 50
#078 Evening In Eden (\$5.50) -- beautiful diamond lace shawl pattern written for 3 weights of yarn

#080 Skydive Scarf or Stole (\$4.50) -- a simple scarf/stole for knitters who think they cannot knit lace, using lace weight or fingering yarns

#086 The Diamond Wrap (\$5.50) -- modular diamonds and zigzag striped stole

#253 Lace Checks (\$6.50) -- attractive little shell with lacey yoke, knit in the round with armhole edges finished as you work

#404 Check-Mate Cardigan (\$6.50) -- twinset companion cardigan to Lace Checks

#407 Great Beginnings Vest (\$5.50) -- a baby is a great beginning, and this pattern is a great beginning for a new knitter; quick and economical, an ideal "last-minute" shower gift

#504 Circular Tank (shown upper right, \$6.50) -- elegant little tank with 3-button placket, knit in the round with armhole edges that are finished as you work

#610 Top Down French Stripes (\$5.50) -- trendy raglan striped DK weight pullover with neck placket for tots, great for big brother / little brother combo

#611 Top Down Classic Cardigan (\$6.50) -- wonderfully simple, elegant in style and a staple for any wardrobe; knit the cuffs and collar in chenille for a classy 2-color version

#612 So Soft Fitted Tunic (\$6.50) -- top-down, full rib turtleneck, with long straight or bell cuffs, slightly "A-line" body and a long bottom rib with vents

#701 Blue Jeans Purse (\$5.50) -- casual never looked so good; this Fair Isle purse is perfect for everyday wear with faded blue jeans

ROWAN presents "Beach Cool" (\$19.95, softcover) with over 16 capelets, shells, and cover-ups to keep you looking cool all summer long...

New from SKACEL COLLECTIONS is "Farfalla" yarn (\$11.25, 50 grams, 77 yards, 70% wool / 30% nylon, US 10 - 11). Italian for "butterfly", "Farfalla" is amazing. Tiny butterfly shaped nubs adorn a pure wool base. This novelty yarn FELTS! Ask to see our eye-catching childrens' clogs and knitted tote bag -- this is already a big seller...

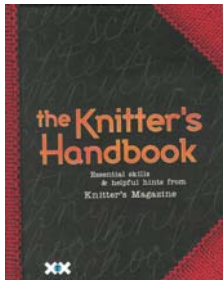
The latest arrivals from OAT COUTURE patterns (\$4.25 each) are:

BB 217 Heritage Blanket for Baby -- beautifully textured checkered border with allover diamond pattern to knit in worsted or chunky weight yarns



AC 311 Sonoma Shawl (shown left) -- cropped circular shawl with easy textured body, feather & fan openwork border; quick knit on size 11 needles with worsted weight yarn

GU417 Rockport Vest -- ladies' sizes 36" - 55"; beautiful braid cables alternate with vertical garter ribs for a classic look; to knit from DK or Aran weight yarns



***** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES *****

Need answers? SSK or K2tog? K1tbl or K1b? wyib or wyif? Why hunt through a pile of books and magazines? The answers are now in one convenient book -- *The Knitter's Handbook* (\$19.95, spiral hardcover, shown left), essential skills and helpful hints from the editors of *Knitter's Magazine*. For twenty years and nearly 80 issues, *Knitter's* has been recognized for its clear and comprehensive technique section, *Knitter's School*. Now, for the first time, these step-by-step instructions are brought together in one volume by editors Elaine Rowley and Rick Mondragon. Grouped by category (decreases, increases, seaming, etc.), the skills are also indexed for easy access.

From casting on the first stitch, through all the basic and a few fancy stitch maneuvers, to fastening in the last end, *The Knitter's Handbook* shows you how to do it. But, just as importantly, it gives a context: where, when and why to do it. Learn the processes, see them in use, discover how to prevent problems and fix mistakes. Up-to-date information on industry standards for yarn weights, fit and sizing, and skill levels are included.

As you go along through a rich and full knitting life, you'll want to add to your *Handbook*. That's what the note pages at the end of each section are for; there's even one at the back of the book for your own indexed entries. In a craft that is largely self-taught, *The Knitter's Handbook* is as valuable a resource for the experienced knitter as it is for the new knitter...

What can you learn about yourself through knitting? What deep symbolism lies behind the loops and patterns that you create? Delve into these questions and more in *The Knitting Way: A Guide to Spiritual Self-Discovery* (\$16.99, softcover) by Linda Skolnik and Janice MacDaniels. Explore your own knitting practice through original patterns, fun explorations, and personal stories from knitters past and present...

Choose from a bounty of classic-to-chic scarf patterns inside *The Little Box of Scarves II* (\$19.95), the latest in the "Little Box" series. Project cards feature full-color photos on the front; schematics, size, materials info, and step-by-step directions on the back. Slip a card into your knitting bag and you're ready to go -- perfect for summer travel!

Whether a first-time knitter or someone who has been clicking the sticks for years, you will have nothing but fun working with the wide array of yarns available today. From exquisite eyelash to chunky chenille, there seems to be no end to the choices in yarn weights and colors. And those yarn choices can translate into an endless source of inspiration for such projects as the ponchos, hats and scarves found within *Quick Knits with Today's Yarns* (\$21.99, softcover) by Jayne S. Davis...

***** DESIGN A SCARF CONTEST *****

Attention, Westmoreland County residents! Kathy's Kreations is sponsoring a Design-A-Scarf contest for the Westmoreland County Fair. Entry must be a scarf of original design knitted or crocheted with CLASSIC ELITE YARNS. Prizes include gift certificates \$40 for first place, \$30 for 2nd place, \$20 for 3rd place. Entry forms are available at the County Fair Office at the Fairgrounds and will appear in all Laurel Press newspapers (early July). For more information, call the County Fair Office at (724) 423-5005 or write P. O. Box 501; Pleasant Unity, PA 15676. Deadline for pre-registration is August 1, 2005.

***** WHAT 'CHA KNITTIN'? *****

Things to knit when the weather warms up: fancy flip flops, summer hat bands, scarves, shawls, socks, bags, felted everything! And here's an easy scarf to knit to proudly wear with nautical or patriotic flair -- ask to see our scarf in progress!

FIRECRACKER SCARF

Sash measures 2" wide X 50"; Scarf measures 4.5" X 54"

Gauge 2.5 sts / 2 rows = 1" in seed stitch

MATERIALS: 90 yards each novelty yarn in red, white and blue (we used one ball of PLYMOUTH ADRIAFIL "Stars" in red color 87 and one ball each S. Charles "Cancun" color 75 white and color 81 blue mix); US Size 15 knitting needles

SEED STITCH PATTERN (odd number of sts)

All rows: K1; *P1, K1; repeat from * across row.

DIRECTIONS: With three strands of yarn held together, cast on 5 sts for sash, 11 sts for scarf. Work in seed stitch pattern until piece measures 50" for sash, 54" for scarf or desired length. Fringe with any leftover yarn.

TIPS FOR COLOR VARIATIONS: We found that this pattern works best with one fuzzy novelty (like Schachehmary Brazillia or Berroco Fizz) and two track-type yarns or tufted yarns (such as CRYSTAL PALACE Little Flowers, PLYMOUTH Electra or CLASSIC ELITE Whimsey).

***** KNITTING TIPS *****

Here's a great idea for a baby gift: when Goldie Durco knits a standard size baby afghan, she includes a smaller, tea towel size "blankie" -- the perfect security blanket for toddlers travelling away from home...

When working a felted purse with a tubular strap, insert a washable shoestring inside before felting. This will make a much more durable strap...

***** **SUMMER SHOULDER TOTE** *****

Knitting on the go deserves a pretty tote bag. This pattern is adapted from two Deco-Ribbon bag free patterns originally appearing on the CRYSTAL PALACE website, www.straw.com

MEASUREMENTS approx. 12" wide X 12" tall

MATERIALS: CRYSTAL PALACE Deco-Ribbon 4 balls; US size 8 knitting needles straight & 16" circular; stitch marker; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 4 sts / 6 rows = 1"

DIRECTIONS: Beg with bottom and straight needles, cast on 13 sts. Work back and forth in seed stitch all rows: K1; *P1, K1; repeat from * across. Cont in seed stitch as est until piece measures 12". BO all sts. With circ needle, pick up & knit 97 sts around outside edge of bottom piece; place marker. Work seed stitch in rounds as follows:

1st round: K1; *P1, K1; repeat from * around.

2nd round: P1; *K1, P1; repeat from * around.

Repeat these 2 rounds until piece measures 12". Bind off all sts in pat as est.

Weave in ends.

Straps (Make 2): With straight needles, cast on 7 sts. Work in seed stitch as for bottom of bag until strap measures 36" or desired length. Bind off. Sew straps in place at sides of bag. Weave in ends.





***** HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NEEDLEARTS TRADE SHOW *****

Lisa and Kathy had the opportunity to network with the top yarn manufacturers, magazine editors, book publishers, designers, suppliers, and authors at the Needlearts Market. We are very excited to share details with you about two fabulous new yarn companies, "must-haves" from our favorite yarn collections and some great books. As a preferred book vendor for these companies, we will gladly accept advance orders for any of these new books -- please ask for details. If it sounds like a who's who in the knitting industry, it was!

--- **NASHUA HANDKNITS:** Marketing Director Linda Pratt of Westminster Fibers, the US supplier for Rowan, introduces a line of natural fibers and designs for the North American lifestyle. "Julia" yarn (which our customers already know and love) is now part of this company. A single-ply alpaca/wool "Wooly Stripes", a self-striping beauty is coming, too -- it is perfect for sweaters and felting, too! The colorways are so beautiful. "Creative Focus" is a single-ply alpaca/wool blend in worsted and chunky weights. We are thrilled that Kathy was selected as one of the American designers to have fashions in the premiere collection -- one in each weight of Creative Focus, including a cover!!!

--- **KRAEMER YARNS:** Kate Lemmers, Pattern & Design Coordinator, showed us this brand new line of high-quality yarns specifically designed for hand knitters and crocheters. We are especially excited about this yarn since it is American-made, right here in Pennsylvania! For more than 100 years, Kraemer has been spinning yarns for home furnishings, apparel and industrial application in their own mill, and now we can bring this to you at a reasonable cost. Look for their yarns to be gracing our shelves after Labor Day, and you will be hearing more from us about Summit Hill (100% superwash wool), Naturally Nazareth (100% wool), Tatamy Tweed DK (cotton blend) and Little Lehigh DK (a new baby yarn in heathers and solids).

--- **XRX / KNITTER'S MAGAZINE:** Rick Mondragon and Elaine Rowley from XRX / Knitter's Magazine greeted us -- wait until you see the colorful scarves coming up in the latest collection of *Scarves*, the latest in the *Best of Knitter's* series. Rick has actually come up with a technique for KNITTED hairpin lace that is spectacular. The ideas in this book will keep us knitting scarves, moving beyond garter stitch novelty frou-frou into textures and colorwork.

Garments from the fall 2005 issue were on display, featuring two of Kathy's sweaters (one at the entrance!). These are easy knits done in panels connected by I-cord piping. 3-D trims and inside-out looks are an upcoming trend.

Sally Melville's latest book, *The Knitting Experience: Color, The Power and Glory* continues Sally's reknowned tradition of innovative designs and spectacular knits. The projects featured in this book **are** simply spectacular. If you aren't familiar with her previous books of this series, *The Knit Stitch* and *The Purl Stitch*, we highly recommend them for your personal library.

--- **TAHKI/ STACY CHARLES:** breakfast with TAHKI was a delight! In addition to the great fall yarns and new pattern books (mock copies available now for preview and advance order), there were presentations from the editors of VOGUE KNITTING, FAMILY CIRCLE EASY KNITTING and INTERWEAVE KNITS. Kathy's cabled men's vest from TAHKI's "Donegal Tweed" was included in the slide presentation and appears in the fall 2005 issue of FAMILY CIRCLE EASY KNITTING, now available...

***** MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NEEDLEARTS TRADE SHOW *****

--- **CLASSIC ELITE YARNS:** Owner Pat Chew and Creative Director Kathy Lacher gave us a personal tour of their fall collection. Classic Elite has such a knack for presenting beautiful natural fibers and interpreting them into timeless designs. Six of our Kathy's designs are featured in their booklets (including a front cover *AND* a back cover): a collared ladies' pullover in "Wings" with an original cable combination; an Asian-inspired ladies' jacket with bamboo stitch, unique tab closures and "zen" cables done in alpaca-blend "Lush"; a uni-sex pullover textured with split diagonal ribs & cables; a family grouping alternating big and little rope cables in "Bazic" (men's pullover and ladies'/kids' cardigans). New yarns for us will be "Viva Cita" (a novelty with hint of metallic), "Minnie" (think fuzzy dots for trims or monochromatic textured boucle pullovers), and "Renaissance Prints" (lovely marls).

Sally Melville has done a featured collection -- ask to see our autographed poster of her designs from a very special pattern booklet. Sally told us that she expects ponchos and their cousins -- capelets, wraps and shawls -- to continue to be hot fashion items for the upcoming season.

--- **DALE OF NORWAY:** we are already expanding our neon "Falk" display -- this is our popular bright, colorful wool for kids' designs. "Falk" is also a great accessory choice for walkers, runners, cyclists, and sports enthusiasts.

--- **ROWAN:** wait 'til you see our new childrens handknits book, with precious designs for kids. We have been receiving requests from shawl knitters for more lace weight yarns. Coming soon are "Kidsilk Night" in subtle metallics for evening and "Kidsilk Spray" prints in denim-friendly shades, both with a touch of elegance.

--- **BRYSON DISTRIBUTING:** A new circular needle, "Bryflex" (product logo lower right) is now on our shelves. We were most impressed with the glide, softness and flexibility of the cable, *AND*, the SUPERIOR concave tip (similar to "Balene" products) to help eliminate split stitches. We also met up with Bev Galeskas of FIBER TRENDS who told us about upcoming patterns, which are already on automatic shipment to us.

--- **INTERWEAVE KNITS:** Editor Pam Allen welcomed us at a reception launching her new book with Ann Budd, *Wrap Style*. This book showcases all kinds of wraps, from innovative to traditional, with 24 inspirational shawls, ponchos and capelets to knit and crochet. We are delighted that one of Kathy's designs, a sideways knit cabled poncho will be part of this collection. Other books that are coming include *Knitting Vintage Socks* by Nancy Bush (new twists on classic patterns), *Folk Hats* by Vicki Square (32 knitting patterns & tales from around the world) and our personal "fun" favorite, *Knitted Babes* by Claire Garland (5 dolls & their wardrobes to knit & stitch). The dolls are so cute, and would be wonderful projects for kids and moms / grandmoms to do together, or with groups of girlfriends. What kind of "babe" would you knit? We will be having a contest later this fall to launch the arrival of the book -- stay tuned.

--- **CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS:** Delightful colorways Fall Herbs, Turkish Carpet and Ultra Blues are here in "Party" ribbon and luscious "Kid Merino". Ask to see the easy-knit PARTY TRIANGLE STOLE combining the two yarns for subtle fibery texture (FREE PATTERN with purchase of yarn to make this garment). "Kiddo", a plushy microfiber nylon will be arriving soon, a surefire hit for baby blankies and little girls' ponchos.

--- **MUENCH YARNS:** If you love fine-quality merino wools as much as we do, "Maxima" is the yarn you've been yearning for. This 100% superwash extrafine merino is as good as it gets!



***** UPCOMING CLASSES *****

“Slip Stitch Knitting” with instructor Betty Lou Glasso on Saturday, July 16, 2005, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm; \$10 (payment requested at time of registration, materials not included); for advanced beginner and beyond skill level



Back by popular demand, Betty Lou will share techniques learned at Sally Melville’s workshop during Knitter’s Magazine Greek Getaway cruise last October. Slip stitch is an easy way to begin learning colorwork techniques with Betty Lou’s placemat or purse project. Supplies needed include medium weight (DK) cotton yarn in three or more colors, US 5 or 6 straight knitting needles, crochet hook size F and scissors.

“Hairpin Lace Crochet” with instructor Nancy Premoshis on Saturday, July 23, 2005, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; \$10 (payment requested at time of registration, materials not included); beginner skill level

Everything old is new again. But this time around, the results are fabulous in today’s novelty yarns and ribbons. Hairpin crochet is the easiest method for creating lace and making openwork scarves, shawls, and throws. Ask to see our unique models made from BERROCO YARNS. Nancy will teach you the how-to’s to master this technique in practically no time...

“Make A Shawl for Fall” with instructor Nancy Premoshis on Saturday, July 30, 2005, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; \$10 (Payment requested at time of registration, materials not included); beginner to advanced skill level

Knitter’s choice -- choose from one of three designs (Lily Chin’s Top Down, Mock Faroese Shawl; Fiber Trends Landscape Shawl or LISA KNITS On The Square). Nancy will help you get wrapped up in a little luxury...

Private knitting, crochet and hairpin lace crochet lessons are also available by appointment during business hours. Students may pre-register for these events by call Kathy’s Kreations at 724-238-9320 or e-mail at kathy@kathys-kreations.com Class supplies are not included in the cost of registration. No refunds will be given unless cancellation is made 48 hours prior to class, or in the event of inclement weather. Classes without a minimum of four students may be subject to cancellation or postponement at the discretion of the instructor.

***** FUN FRIDAY AND SATURDAY *****

Even more fun, now three days — it’s **Fun Friday and Fun Saturday with instructor Joyce Bischoff!** Please join us in our classroom area on **Friday, July 22, 2005, and/or Saturday, July 16 and 23, 2005 from 10 am - 2 pm**, for a fun-filled day of knitting comradery. Joyce will be here to answer your questions and provide expert knitting assistance, with wonderful tips for more successful knitting. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack or lunch if you wish, a folding chair if you’ve got one, and your sense of humor. You deserve to escape for a knitting break...

Nurture your creativity -- whether you live in a tiny apartment or a spacious house, your creative pasttimes deserve a special space. Set aside a comfortable space for knitting and crocheting -- a chair, a quiet spot in the backyard or deck. Add a little “zen” atmosphere with candles, houseplants, a table with a teaset for one or coffee mug, and soon your creative juices will be flowing... KEEP KNITTING! Kathy