

KATHY'S KREATIONS
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JULY 2016 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

Let's seize the summer! Summer is made for effortless clothing -- it's the season of throwing on garments that are loose, comfortable and cool. It makes sense that your stitching should be equally as effortless and easy.

The warm weather has us thinking about our summer favorites -- in yarns, pattern designs, needles and accessories. This month, we're putting the spotlight on the collections you love the most. We invite you to stop in soon to find some new summer favorites, discover the shades of the season and transform your wardrobe with light, colorful classics in fibers to keep you cool all season long.

Summer means traveling for many of us. Whether you're visiting the seashore, the mountains, or simply the next area code, we've got you covered. Don't forget to take along your knitting or crocheting project! Most of our customers prefer socks or scarves for their take-along stitching. A new pattern from CHURCHMOUSE CLASSICS, "Simple Tee", has won over our hearts (see page 8). It has many options -- long or short, sleeves or not, and in a gauge that allows many fiber possibilities. This top straddles the line between elegant and casual by combining a special occasion top and the tee you'll want to wear every day. But then, isn't every summer day a special occasion?

We're celebrating the glorious days of summer with a fabulous promotion featuring some really great yarns...

"WE LOVE ROWAN YARNS"

JULY 1 - JULY 28, 2016

**10% off all purchases of in-stock,
regularly-priced ROWAN yarns**

Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Monday through Saturday; closed Sundays

CLOSED Monday, July 4, 2016 to observe Independence Day holiday

THE STEEL VALLEY YARN CRAWL EXTENDED HOURS

JULY 29 - AUGUST 7, 2016

Open daily during the Yarn Crawl

9:00 am - 5:00 pm weekdays

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Fridays and Saturdays

12:00 noon - 4:00 pm Sundays

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX

Private knitting and crocheting lessons

Instructions are available by appointment

Finishing services & gift certificates available

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please visit our website <http://www.kathys-kreations.com>



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Just "because it's hot" doesn't mean you need to pack away your yarn! Simply choose warm-weather fibers like cotton or linen and "on the go" small projects like socks, bags, totes, pillows, placemats, tanks, crop tops, and shrugs. Find a shady spot outdoors or turn up the a/c, grab an ice cold glass of lemonade and stitch away -- get the picture? We have plenty of summer road trip-friendly ideas, too, from quick and colorful crocheted totes to knitted tees. Isn't it wonderful that knitting, crocheting and stitching are so portable? Here's what's REALLY HOT this summer...

Slip into easy fall knitting (yes, we are already talking fall) *Knitscene Fall 2016* (\$7.99, shown upper left). These 22 all-new knitting patterns explore slip stitch for easy texture and color, along with showcasing the versatility of this season's freshest singles yarns strutting their stuff in a big way. Singles is the trendy word for single-ply yarns like DREAM IN COLOR "Jilly", MADELINE TOSH "Merino Light", SCHOPPEL WOLLE "Zauberball" and more.

If you want to learn how slip stitches work before you begin a project with this technique, check out the crash course excerpt from the book *The Art of Slip Stitch Knitting*. If you are keen on learning about different cast-ons, check out Kate Atherley's "Pattern Play" article (worth the read). And, for an explanation of the use of decorative but functional decreases in garments, head on over to Sarah Solomon's insightful article about decreasing. Connect with the *Knitscene* team for fearless knitting...

Arriving later this month is MADELINETOSH "Dandelion" (\$22.50, 3 oz., 325 yards, 90% merino / 10% linen, CYCA #2). This is a beautiful single-ply custom blend of superwash merino and fine linen -- the sophisticated cousin of the ever-popular "Tosh Merino Light". Each skein contains ample yardage for a small shawlette or a lovely lace project with two. It is also perfect for lightweight sweaters. The linen adds a touch of soft heathering to the yarn for that highly sought-after rustic and summery appearance. Hand-dyed in Tosh's brilliantly glazed colorways, each hank of this unique yarn is a work of art...

More singles -- new shades of DREAM IN COLOR "Jilly" (\$22.50, 440 yards, 100% superwash merino wool, CYCA #2) and "Jilly with Cashmere" (\$32.50, 440 yards, 70% superwash merino wool / 20% cashmere / 10% nylon, CYCA #2) have arrived in spectacular colorways...

Lightweight and breezy, UNIVERSAL YARNS "Bamboo Pop" (\$8.95, 100 grams, 292 yards, 50% cotton / 50% bamboo, CYCA #3) is a wonderful blend that makes great warm weather projects for adults and kids. Light and smooth with a broad color palette, UNIVERSAL / FIBRA NATURA "Cotton True Sport" (\$6.50, 50 grams, 197 yards, 100% pima cotton, CYCA #3) is an excellent choice for both baby knits and exquisite polished garments that invite compliments...

Without question, the most popular trend at the TNNA show this year was gradients -- in every form and weight. If you would like to try out an easy project using gradients (think tonal variegation), we recently introduced TRENDSETTER YARNS "Transitions Boxed Rib T Scarf" (\$30.95, 150 grams, 660 yards, 52% cotton / 48% acrylic, CYCA #3, shown at right). This item was the hit of the recent "Sample It" event at TNNA. Knit with US size 5 needles, this beginner-easy side-to-side triangular shawl is worked in an easy combination of stockinette stitch and garter. This one skein of yarn does all the color work for you -- all you have to do is knit and purl (doesn't get much easier!)



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

VOGUE KNITTING calls sock knitting "the distillation of knitting at its finest". It is a combination of meditative, mindless knitting and technically accomplished craft. Socks can be as basic or as challenging as the knitter wants them to be. Since socks can be modified for a perfect fit, the finished product works with any body type. Knit a sock and you are instantly connected to a tradition that spans continents and generations. Everything old is new again, especially when it comes to sock knitting...



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Opal Yarns

"Panorama" (shown upper right, \$18.50, 100 grams, 465 yards, 60% superwash wool / 25% polypropylene / 15% nylon, CYCA #2, gentle machine wash & dry) is the third OPAL YARNS Sport collection. OPAL introduces a new fiber blend for their fingering weight sock yarn. This new mix gives the Sport socks better temperature and moisture control. Not only are your socks colorful, but now even more practical. We like to refer to this self-striping line as the colors of comfort. One ball makes a pair of socks. Better hurry -- quantities are limited and available only for a short period of time...

New colorpack assortments of SCHOEPPEL WOLLE single-ply "Zauberball" (\$23.50, 100 grams, 460 yards, 75% virgin wool / 25% nylon, CYCA #2) and 2-ply multi "Zauberball Crazy" (\$24.50, 100 grams, 460 yards, 75% virgin wool / 25% nylon, CYCA #2) have arrived. More shades will be arriving in anticipation of Michelle Hunter's October sock knit-a-long. This vibrant gradient is popular all over the world and Michelle will be bringing you a one-ball mystery sock to showcase its gorgeous colors. Choose your favorite early...

KATIA "Darling" (\$12.50, 50 grams, 208 yards, 60% virgin wool / 40% nylon, CYCA #2) is a glorious, single-ply self-striping fingering weight blend of superwash merino and nylon in shades that remind us of tropical flowers. Each brightly colored machine washable ball of soft and squishy loveliness is perfect for socks for all the family. You can easily crochet or knit "Darling" into hats, scarves, shawls and accessories. It also works great when worked along with a solid, making it an ideal choice for this month's "Nymphalidea Shawl" KAL...

Betcha want to know what's new from the TNNA trade show! Splattershot! What's that, you say? LORNA'S LACES has created an incredible speckled hand-dyeing technique that they are calling "Splattershot". We are one of the first yarn shops that will launch the line with "Shepherd's Sock" fingering weight colors that are named after places we yearn for (Cozumel colorway shown page 6, upper left). So pretty, and every stitch is uniquely mesmerizing. "Shepherd Sock" is always a pleasure to knit or crochet with, whether you choose socks, shawls or garments. Colorways should be here in time for the Steel Valley Yarn Crawl...

How do you like to work socks, mitts, cowls, hats, or sleeves in the round? Usually, most knitters work with double-pointed needles (dpns), Magic Loop method, two circular needles, or a short 9" circular needle. Get ready for an innovative new product that gives you yet another alternative -- curved dpns! We are pleased to introduce to you NEKO Curved Double-Pointed Needles. When working with traditional dpns, you usually work with 5 needles, 4 needles for stitches and one working needle. With NEKO's new patented invention, you can now knit with only 3 needles. Two are used to hold the stitches, while the third is used for knitting (see photo, lower left). Available in assorted bright colors, these plastic needle sets are available in a variety of sizes from 2.0 mm (US #0) to 12mm (US #17), with prices varying according to needle size...



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*** JULY KATERTATER KNIT ALONG ***

The July 2016 SKACEL KAL is welcoming a new host, Katie Rempe, aka KATERTATER Knits. Katie will be alternating as host with Michelle Hunter, as she takes time off to complete her *Building In Lace* book, due out in 2017. No worries, Michelle will be back in October with a sock knit-along and a 2.0 updated version of Scoreboard KAL in August.

Follow along as we knit a pair of fingerless mitts that are totally customizable for each knitter. How would you *Knit Your Life*? Katie's design is based on totem poles as a way to tell your personal story. Using colorwork, knitters can follow a design template that Katie will release once the KAL begins on July 7, or they can explore their own design ideas and share them with fellow knitters. Knitters can add the free *Totem Life Mitts* pattern to their library on Ravelry to receive automatic updates once the pattern goes live. The photo at upper left of Katie's mitts is not representative of your mitts.

Totem Life Mitts are knit with HiKOO "Simplicity", a staple yarn readily available on our shelves. Gauge is 23 sts / 28 rows = 4" in stockinette colorwork, unblocked. Materials include:

- 4 (or more if desired) hanks of HiKOO Simplicity
- US 6 (4 mm) dpns or circular needles for magic loop, or size needed to obtain gauge
- stitch markers
- graph paper & colored pencils (optional)

We hope that you will join us every Friday in July here at Kathy's Kreations from 10 am - 2 pm for this group project, the continuation of previous KALs, or any other works in progress purchased here.

Several of our knitters have chosen "Nymphalidea" (shown lower right) for their July knit along. This shawl is a free Ravelry download designed by Melinda VerMeer. It first appeared in Knitty, deep fall 2013. This shawl is named for one of the largest families of butterflies, with varieties found in every corner of the world. The mesh edging and solid welts separating each wedge are reminiscent of delicate veined butterfly wings. Melinda designed this for use with long gradient self-striping yarns paired with a contrasting solid or semi-solid, so each wedge becomes individual of those before and after, and are unique like the wings of a butterfly. Because this is cast on with few stitches and expands, it easily can be adapted to alternate weight yarns or be made smaller or larger to suit the individual knitter. "Crazy Zauberball" by SCHOPPEL-WOLLE was used in the original designs, and a new supply has just arrived on our shelves...

*** SCOREBOARD KAL 2.0 ***

The second season of the Scoreboard KAL will be kicking off on August 1st! The first season proved to be amazing, especially with the Pittsburgh Steelers scoring their way into the playoffs (after all, our shop team name is "Stealing Stitches" and we sure did plenty of that!). As an official registered shop, we qualify for a chance to win a free pizza party. If you recall, we did win some free yarn prizes and gifts last year.

For those not familiar with this KAL -- the Scoreboard KAL allows fans to capture their favorite football team's season in the form of a hand-knit cowl with two options. The Point-by-Point version from last year represents every point scored by the home team and the opponent (requires 6 skeins HiKOO "Simplicity" in each of favorite team's colors and 1 skein to mark breaks between games). The new Play-by-Play cowl is a condensed version using half the amount of yarn (3 skeins each of HiKOO "Simplicity" in two colors plus optional break color). Both versions require US size 7 16" circular knitting needles, although we preferred a slightly tighter gauge using a US size 6. We have plenty of black and gold inventory, plus yarn for Pitt, WVU, Penn State & other AFC North teams...



*** MOONRISE SHAWL ***

What's on trend for fall? Garter garnishes and neck knits! Using either one or two hanks of HiKOO "Rylie", the *Moonrise Shawl* is an easy garter project with yarn over increases, making it a perfect first shawl project. Stripes are an ever-present trend in fashion, but they are particularly beloved by knitters for the opportunities they afford to play with color. The large shawl features a two-color stripe option with high visual impact. Our sincere thanks to the design team at SKACEL COLLECTION for sharing this Magalog pattern with us.

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner to Intermediate

Finished Dimensions: small size 38" wingspan & 17" deep; large size 56" wingspan & 24" deep (directions in parentheses)

Featured Yarn: HiKOO "Rylie" 50% baby alpaca / 25% mulberry silk / 25% linen, 100 grams, 274 yards. This yarn is located on our sport & DK weight shelves. The small size takes one hank. The large size (shown in photo) takes two hanks, one of each color (designated A & B).

Needles & Notions: Addi US #6 (4.0 mm) 40" circular needle OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE; locking stitch marker; tapestry needle

Gauge: 18 sts / 32 rows = 4" in garter stitch, after blocking

Take time to save time -- check your gauge and read all instructions thoroughly before beginning project

INSTRUCTIONS

Garter Tab Cast On:

Using color A, cast on 3 stitches. Knit 6 rows, do not turn work at the end of the 6th row. Rotate piece 90 degrees clockwise, then pick up 3 stitches (1 stitch in each garter ridge) along adjacent edge of piece; once again rotate piece 90 degrees clockwise and pick up 3 stitches (1 stitch in each cast on stitch) along cast on edge -- 9 stitches.

Shawl Body:

Row 1 (right side): Knit 4, yarn over (yo), knit 1 and mark this stitch (center spine), yo, knit 3, slip 1 purlwise wyif (with yarn in front) -- 11 stitches.

Row 2: Knit to last stitch, slip 1 purlwise wyif.

Row 3: Knit 4, *yo, knit 1; repeat from * two times, yo knit 3, slip 1 purlwise wyif.

Row 4 (and all following wrong side rows): repeat row 2.

Row 5: Knit 4, yo, knit to marked center spine stitch, yo, k1, yo, knit to last 4 stitches, yo, knit 3, slip 1 purlwise wyif -- 4 stitches increased.

Size Small Only: Repeat rows 4 & 5 for a total of 100 rows, or until there is just enough yarn remaining to bind off. Bind off all stitches loosely.

Size Large Only: Continuing with color A, repeat rows 4 & 5 for a total of 88 rows, or until about 20 grams of color A remains.

Continuing in established pattern, work as follows:

Change to color B and work 4 rows.

Change to color A and work 2 rows.

Change to color B and work 6 rows.

Change to color A and work 2 rows.

Change to color B and work 8 rows.

Change to color A and work 2 rows.

Change to color B and work 24 rows.

Bind off all stitches loosely.

Finishing: Weave in all ends using a tapestry needle. Wet block aggressively.

Enjoy!





*** KNITTING AND CROCHETING TIPS AND TRICKS ***

Our nurse knitting friend Anita Beschart tells us that an empty "Epi pen" case can be recycled as a crochet hook and 6" dpn holder...

Susan S from North Hills (Pittsburgh) tells us that rumor has it that Cat Bordhi recommends ROWAN "Kid Silk Haze" (on sale 'til the yarn Crawl) as a reinforcement thread for sock heels and toes...

If you are working a cowl lengthwise, begin with a provisional cast-on, so that you can make a seamless join. Designer tip from Kathy: many scarf designs can be converted into an infinity loop by simply joining the cast on and bind off edges. If you have a lovely yarn in your stash that isn't enough yardage for a long scarf, think about using it for a cowl or short loop...

Knitting decreases all have a directional slant -- they are either left-leaning or right-leaning in relationship to the other stitches in the fabric. In general, decreases along the armhole shaping and then on the sleeve cap are in mirrored pairs. They will either face toward one another or away from one another. For example, knit two together (K2tog) is a right-slanting decrease, while ssk (slip, slip, knit) is a left-slanting decrease. For best results that are most pleasing to the eye, they should not slant in the same direction. Kathy recommends that you work the decreases one stitch in from the edge, for ease in picking up stitches and a neater edge for finishing seam edges. For an interesting look, decreases may be placed farther away from the edge (two, three or more stitches). This effect is called "fully-fashioned" decreases...

It's important to do gauge swatches, and they are good to keep in case the yarn is needed for a repair or to take on a shopping excursion for matching clothes. Here's a new use -- place your swatch or several swatches in a frame to display as art...

Avoid knitter's / crocheter's denial! If something doesn't look right, re-visit your stitches and fix it -- don't fudge it! You will always know the flaw is there and your eye will always find it. You'll be glad you took the time to get it right...

The beauty of hand-dyed yarns is that each skein is unique. Because these yarns are dyed by hand, there can be a variation in coloring, hue, and saturation, even within the same dye batch. Be sure to purchase enough yarn to complete the project plus a little extra if you think you may need it. Kathy recommends alternating three balls at the same time, changing balls with every row. Any shade discrepancies will blend in...

Not all yarn is created equal. It is vital that you put some thought into choosing yarn for your project. Once you begin investing in better quality yarn, you will begin producing better quality products. Buy the best you can afford in a fiber appropriate for the end use -- it is absolutely worth it. As Kathy always says, "Your time is the most valuable part of your project!"

Think about how your knits will be used or worn, who they are for, and what properties are needed for your knits to function effectively. As a general rule, animal fibers (wool, cashmere, mohair, alpaca, etc.) are a good choice for cold-weather accessories and garments because they are lightweight, warm, and cozy. They are more elastic than plant fibers, so they will hold their shape better. Plant-based fiber (cotton, linen, hemp, etc.) are typically less elastic than animal fibers, so they are better suited to garments that are straight, or require more drape. Plant fibers are usually more durable than animal fibers, so they are ideal for home decor accessories...

*** WHERE'S KATHY? ***

Thursday, July 21, 2016 Kathy's Kreations Day at Kraemer Textile Mill

Join us for a tour of a family-owned, operating American textile mill on Thursday, July 21, 2016 and see how yarn is made! There is no charge for the tour which starts at 10 am, but lodging and transportation are on your own. You may make purchases from KRAEMER's yarn shop, where you will find every color of every yarn they produce. It is not only made in the USA, it is made in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. Please let us know if you are coming, need directions or other information.



July 29 - August 7, 2016 Steel Valley Yarn Crawl

Ready for a fiber adventure like no other? Please join us for ten fun-filled days "crawling" your way through eleven participating yarn shops in the Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania area! The Steel Valley Yarn Crawl will feature a "passport" to get stamped at each store. It is an excellent opportunity for fiber enthusiasts to discover new patterns, classes and yarns as they peruse the offerings at each store (in no required order). To add to the fun, you will have lots of chances to win PRIZES! We'll be glad to fill you in on all the exciting details.

This self-guided tour is a great way to see what our local fiber community has to offer and to meet other yarncrafters. Along the way, we hope that you will discover new ways to fuel your fiber passion and meet local fiber artists up close and delight in their wares. Best of all, re-kindle your love for all the yarns and fibers that western PA has to offer. Ask us how to obtain your passport!

Each shop will feature a free knitted or crocheted pattern, varying by shop. Get a group of friends together and pile in the car to hop from shop to shop.

Kathy's Kreations will have extended hours for this event: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays; 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm on Sundays. As we did last year, we will feature three large door prize baskets (two knit, one crochet), refreshments, special guest Meet & Greets, and more.

In addition, Kathy's Kreations will host an "embellishing party" on Friday, July 8, 2016, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for customers who have purchased their yarn crawl totes here. Bring in your tote bag and customize it so that you will be able to recognize it when car pooling from shop to shop. We will provide craft fabric markers for you to use, but feel free to bring along fabric paint, glitter, scrap yarn, etc. We have some fun ideas for unique ways to "make it your own". Stay tuned for upcoming details in our August newsletter!

September 16 - 17, 2016 31st Annual Knitter's Day Out

Join us at Central Penn College in Summerdale, PA in September! This fun-filled event is a day and a half of classes, shopping and camaraderie devoted to knitting and fiber arts, and has been held annually since 1986. Kathy will once again be a Featured Teacher and her classes include Fabulous Fair Isle; Catch The Wave (exploring Old Shale Stitch) and Take A Hike Cabled Hat (featuring one of her original pattern designs). Donna Dunlap will be manning the booth at the Market. KRAEMER YARNS will be showcased, as well as a variety of quality yarns, needles, patterns and accessories. Registration details are available at www.knittersdayout.org

September 30 - October 2, 2016 Fall Fling hosted by Kathy's Kreations

Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS will be our featured instructor for this wonderful weekend learning experience, taking place at the Ramada Inn of Ligonier. The weekend topic is "Sock Knitting" and Lisa has some cool, new ideas for knitting socks in new directions that we haven't seen before. Two spaces have recently opened up, so please contact us for more information soon if you are interested...



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

Join the "First Mondays" Club for an evening of knitting, crocheting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate in Greensburg, PA. Next meeting dates are Monday evenings **July 11, 2016 (2nd Monday because of Independence Day holiday)** and **August 1, 2016; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** All skill levels of knitters and crocheters welcome!

***** "KNITTING IN THE AFTERNOON" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesdays, July 12, 2016 and August 9, 2016; 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join us for stitching & lots of fun conversation. All skill levels of knitters & crocheters are welcome! Please call ahead to rsvp in case there has been a scheduling change...

***** SATURDAY SIT-N-KNIT July 9, 2016 and August 13, 2016; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; (rsvp please) *****

Knitting has many therapeutic benefits. Come sit 'n knit! Join us at Kathy's Kreations for fellowship and stitching for projects purchased here. Open to all skill levels...

***** FUN FRIDAYS, July 15, 2016 and August 19, 2016; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm *****

Come in for the yarn and leave with friendships! Join our "knitting community" for fellowship, stitching, and how-to's for projects purchased here. Whether this is your first project or your hundredth, this is the place for you to learn, grow and enjoy being with other knitters and crocheters just like you. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. All skill levels welcome!

***** JULY KNIT-ALONG (KAL) *****

Stop by on Fridays in July from **10 am - 2 pm** (rsvp please) to work on our newest KALs with your stitching friends to cheer you on. This month, we feature two projects -- Katie Rempke's "Totem Life Mitts" KAL, and the "Nymphalidea" shawl -- as well as WIPs from previous KALs. Not working on the KALs? You are still welcome to come -- simply bring any knit or crochet project purchased at Kathy's Kreations and join the group (free!). Follow us on "We Love Kathy's" Ravelry group July 2016 thread...

--- Embellish Your Bag for the Yarn Crawl Friday July 8, 2016; 10 am - 2 pm

--- Summer In Ligonier Sidewalk Sale July 15 & 16, 2016

--- Kraemer Textiles Yarn Tour "Kathy's Kreations Day" July 21, 2016; 10:00 am

--- Steel Valley Yarn Crawl: July 29 - August 7, 2016

--- Knitter's Day Out : Friday & Saturday September 16 & 17, 2016

--- Fall Fling with Instructor Lisa Carnahan September 30 - October 2, 2016

--- Fort Ligonier Days October 14 - 16, 2016

--- I Love Yarn Day Saturday October 15, 2016

--- KNITTREAT at OMNI Bedford Springs November 10 - 13, 2016

--- Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet / Creative Arts Festival March 24 - 26, 2017

--- Spring Break with Instructor Mary Lee Clark April 15-17, 2017 (Enchantment Shawl & Colorwork Techniques)

Private knitting and crocheting lessons available by appointment. Learning knitting or correcting mistakes are not the only reasons to have a one-on-one tutoring lesson. Learn new techniques like lace or short rows, or get help with a pattern before starting -- our instructors can do it all! Additional group classes are forming -- ask us for details. We would be glad to do a specific class topic for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for more than 36 years !

Summertime and the stitching is easy -- at least it should be! Now, go forth, stitch it forward and spread the love of yarn! **KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING!** Kathy