

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
JUNE 2011 UPDATE

Dear Knitters & Crocheters,

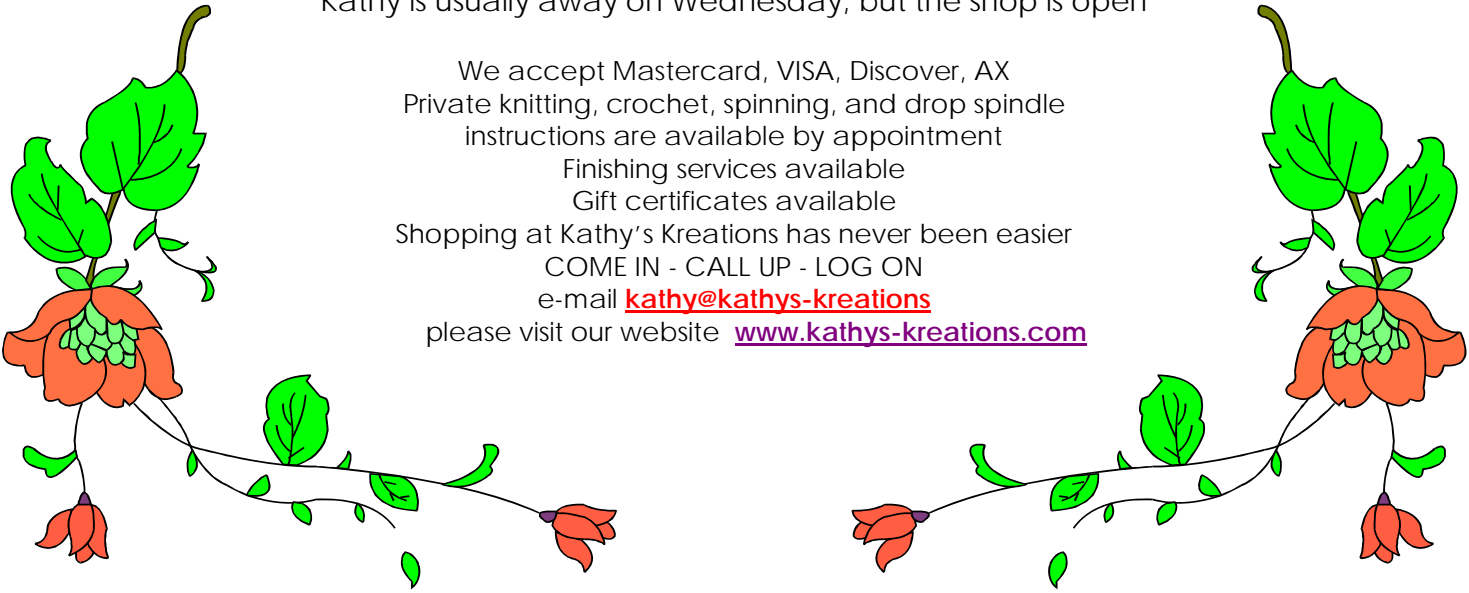
Are you "in the know"? No worries -- we'll help you to stay connected and informed so you won't miss out on the latest trends or products. Soften / Energize / Excite are keywords for Spring / Summer 2011. Colors are described by words like airy, waxy, silky, and are translated into soft tones of raspberry sorbet, citrus shades and cool sea glass-inspired blues. Look for classic stand-bys like artful touches, clever construction, novel techniques and figure-flattering silhouettes.

Knitting Industry News tells us that there is a "greening" effort in the fashion world. We will not only see yarns made with recycled fibers, but products designed in premium materials, meant to create a lasting emotional and functional connection between project and the user. "Slow fashion" will develop from being a diffuse buzzword to signifying quality in production and product, turning artisan crafts into fashion, promoting the "buy local" movement and producing long-lasting clothing. Come in soon to see what's new, who's doing what, get some great ideas to try, and see what stitchers are buzzing about!

SUMMER'S HERE and THE LINEN IS EASY!
All regularly-priced linen and linen blend yarns (all weights)
in stock are 10% off throughout June 2011

10% Tuesdays are back!
Receive 10% off as many regularly-priced items as you can fit into
your Kathy's Kreations logo tote bag on Tuesdays only

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 available
Gift certificates available

Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON
e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations
please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



*** GREAT NEW STUFF ***

The fashion runway may be too avant garde for most of us, but it does influence what is out there for us to knit. There is more emphasis on chic, comfortable garments. Summer staples like cotton and linen look cool and classy with metallic accents and mono-chromatic self-striping

colorways.

The "Knitting Gourmet"'s blog reminds us that trends come and go -- the twists and turns you make of them are your own. The real trend is individualism, creating something with your own two hands, expressing yourself, and creating a gift for a special someone (or yourself) that can't be bought at the Mall. In the age of fast food, outsourcing, technology overload and mass production, we can choose to do something with meaning that sets us apart. It's something unique, to call your own. And here are some items to spark your creativity...

As the cover of *Interweave Knits Summer 2011* (\$6.99) announces, it's finally summer! That's not all the cover has to say. This is the issue featuring Kathy's Designer Profile and *Knits* calls our Kathy Zimmerman "The Knitter's Knitter". We couldn't be prouder of this compliment. Julie Matthews' superbly-written article talks about Kathy's quarter-century of creating classic cables and cardigans (see "Sprout Tee" lower right), her tips for improving your knitting, the "Kathy's Kreations" shop experience, her design process and sources of inspiration. In addition to the article, one of Kathy's newest knits, "Lace and Cable Scarflette" (shown upper left), a simple rectangle trimmed on three sides with fringe, is featured. A refined wool and cotton tweed from our shelves, BROWN SHEEP "Serendipity Tweed" keeps the fabric cozy and cool (\$9.95, 100 grams, 3.5 oz., 60% cotton / 40% wool, CYCA#3). This issue is filled with playful, warm weather "good" knits sure to liven up your knitting -- patchwork; fast, fresh texture; and easy, breezy lace.

Our favorite piece of advice from this issue: "For any new yarns and unfamiliar materials, take the time to knit a sample". Don't dread swatching; think of it as time to play, discover and acquaint yourself with a new fiber friend. Refer to the manufacturer's label for needle size but don't be afraid to go up or down one size to achieve the knitted fabric look you like best. Experiment with different stitch patterns to find out how the yarn behaves with different fabric, and constructions. Wash and block the swatch according to the label instructions, pick a project based on your findings, and start knitting...

OK, it's barely summer, but *Vogue Knitting Early Fall 2011* (\$6.99) is here with a preview of what's to come. This issue, however, is chock full of season-spanning sweaters with loose silhouettes and short sleeves, many in light-weight yarns as well as layering pieces (romantic knitted capelets, from elegant to cozy, are getting alot of attention as THE wrap for fall and beyond). VOGUE showcases the best of the upcoming fall season, from fairy-tale fantasy to cushy casual staples to everything in between. Urban elegance is everywhere, with lithe, drapey tunics and vertical detailing to lengthen and strengthen the knit silhouette.

When you begin a knitting project, do you blindly plunge in? If you answered yes to this question, we recommend that you read "The Big Little Picture: Making Sense of Schematics". Size matters, and now you can style the way you like, for a sweater that fits you better and flatters you more...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO "Ty-Dy Cotton" (\$15.50, 100 grams, 196 yards, 100% cotton, CYCA #4) gives you an all-cotton alternative to self-striping wools with that tie-dyed look! Our latest pattern support is pattern 1762 Vertical Ruffle Tank (\$4.50, shown right). This stunning sleeveless pullover is worked from center back to center front, ending with a ruffle. Try it with one of our newest shades (oceana, clay, gold rush, or tropicale). Look for Kathy's upcoming design "Redrocks" in K103, the next issue of *Knitter's Magazine*, arriving later this month, knit in colorway painted desert...



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Knit One, Crochet Too

We mentioned touches of metallics -- be sure to check out KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO's "18 Karat" (\$7.95, 25 grams, 224 yards, 65% viscose/ 35% metallized polyester, CYCA#1), a gorgeous, glitzy carry-along yarn perfect for adding sparkly touches to special occasion accessories. Ask to see the "Seven Circles" Scarf WIP (work in progress)...

A new pattern is here from FRENCH PRESS KNITS / DEEP SOUTH FIBERS. "French Press Felted Slippers" (\$7.00, shown lower left) are girly-girl shoes to fancy your feet. Friend of the shop, Karen McCullough, suggests not just wearing these around the house. She plans to take along a pair in her purse for those times when her feet get achey, and she needs to kick off her heels, literally. Think about it -- these are great for dancing at wedding receptions, under the table at restaurants or under the desk at work. Karen, you may just be starting a new fashion trend (and you read it here first!)...

"Lolita" (\$6.50) from IMAGINE KNIT / DEEP SOUTH FIBERS patterns is a light-weight vest with a flattering drape that works on any body type, in any season. Worked in ROWAN YARNS "Revive" (\$11.50, 50 grams, 137 yards; 36% recycled silk / 36% recycled cotton / 28% recycled viscose, CYCA #3), this is a great travel piece which looks equally great with jeans or paired with a dressier outfit. We've got this as a WIP, too -- so much yarn, so little time! Look for this yarn in *Knitter's Magazine* K103 too, used for Kathy's Patchwork Pullover (coming later this month)...

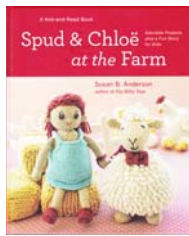
New shades of summer yarn favorites are here: "Katydid" organic cotton ribbon "Pebbles" cotton/acrylic blend and "Silky Alpaca Lace" for shawls & wraps, all from CLASSIC ELITE YARNS; "Cotton Supreme" and "Cotton Supreme Batik" from UNIVERSAL YARNS; our can't-keep-it-in stock runaway novelty "Marina" from UNIVERSAL YARNS (five new shades, selling like hotcakes, for the Cafe Scarf); and perennial go-to yarn for a multitude of projects, TAHKI "Cotton Classic"...

SKACEL COLLECTION introduces "Simplicity" by HiKoo (\$7.50, 50 grams, 117 yards, 58% merino superwash / 28% acrylic / 17% nylon, CYCA#3). This self-striping DK weight blend is ideal for activewear and children's garments. An easy-knit baby kimono pattern is available free with purchase of yarn to make the project...



A shipment of DELLA Q organizers has arrived. The circular needle caddy (\$48.00) is the perfect solution for storing your assortment of circular needles. Each section is conveniently numbered with needle sizes -- not only practical, but pretty. Double-point "duo" needle pouches made with beautiful fabrics to store both 5" and 7" dpns will arrive soon...

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French Press Knits /
Deep South Fibers



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Looking for a fun summer project to do with your kids or grandkids? Now you can knit your own barnyard full of fun! *Spud & Chloe at the Farm* (\$13.95, hardcover, shown left), by author Susan B. Anderson of *Itty-Bitty Hats* fame, features 13 knitting projects, accompanied by a read-aloud story. Follow Spud, a feisty pet sheep, and Chloe, his perky owner, as they travel to a farm and meet the inhabitants of the barnyard -- a farm dog, a pair of piglets, a mother hen and chicks, and more...

Knit Your Own Dog (\$14.95, softcover) is the perfect gift for dog-lovers and knitters everywhere! This irresistible book is full of simple patterns to create your very own knitted dog. The Knitted Dog is a perfect pet: there's no feeding, barking, walking, or shedding, and it will live forever! Choose from a pretty Poodle, a burly Bulldog, a loyal Labrador, or 20 other distinctive breeds, or make your own unique mutt by mixing and matching the pedigree dog parts. *Knit Your Own Dog* allows you to reproduce your own pet, make your favorite breed, or even knit the exact dog you have always wanted to own...

Expand your knit and crochet expertise with Lesley Stanfield's *75 Birds, Butterflies & little beasts to knit and crochet* (\$21.99, softcover). This menagerie of miniature creatures ranges from creepy crawlies and weird wrigglers to beautiful butterflies and splendid metallic-thread dragonflies. Use them to decorate clothes and accessories, the table and walls of your home, or give them as gifts (we're using them to embellish kids' hats!). Every one of these cute little "beasts" and nature items is thoughtfully displayed in the front of the book, and also cross-referenced to a complete pattern. You'll also find a mixture of fun and fabulous ideas for using the creatures in a range of styles and settings: as seasonal decorations, quirky home decor, or elegant accessories...

Everything is coming up roses with *100 Flowers to Knit & Crochet* also by Lesley Stanfield (\$21.95, softcover). This delightful collection of flowers to knit and crochet may be used to embellish clothing and accessories, or to make a beautiful bouquet. In addition to flowers, there is an assortment of leaves and vegetables (ask to see our sweetpea hat with peas in a pod topper!). There are plenty of inspirational ideas for using flowers in a range of fun ways, from customizing garments to decorating tote bags...

Our collection of summer reads wouldn't be complete without a couple of new novels. New from Maggie Sefton comes "Skein of the Crime" (\$24.95, hardcover), the latest installment in her Knitting Mystery series set in Fort Connor, Colorado. If you aren't familiar with this author, the first two mysteries of the series are now available in one volume, "Double Knit Murders" (\$15.00, softcover). Join the knitting regulars at the House of Lambspun as they create scarves and unravel crimes...

Knitting in the Sun (\$22.99, softcover) gives you more than 30 projects designed exclusively to knit and wear in warm weather. You'll find patterns to keep your needles clicking whether you're lounging by the pool or taking a break at the beach (we love the beach hats!). Whether you're new to knitting or a seasoned stitcher, you'll find fresh patterns and compelling designs to create gorgeous lightweight pieces that will make a splash on sunny days...

*** DROP STITCH SCARF ***

Here is one of Kathy's latest designs, introducing "Alpaca Handknitting Yarn" from KRAEMER YARNS (shown right). This design will be featured at the National Needlework Association's *Sample It!* event at the Needlearts Show in Columbus June 11-13, 2011. A big THANK YOU to KRAEMER YARNS for permitting us to debut the scarf FREE in this newsletter. This scarf has incredible thermal properties because of the pattern stitch and fiber content. Luxurious, light-weight, incredibly soft "Alpaca Handknitting Yarn" DK weight spun by KRAEMER will soon be available on our shelves (\$15.50, 100 grams, 220 yards, 70% alpaca / 30% merino, CYCA #3, DK). We are so pleased to offer you this quality product. This is "America's Alpaca", made from North American Alpaca blended with merino wool, MADE IN THE USA, MADE IN PA, for the Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America. We think "MADE IN THE USA" is important, and we hope that you will agree! Kathy has also designed a matching unisex adult's vest and hat in this pattern, which will be available soon, free with purchase of yarn to make the project.



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Kraemer Yarns

MATERIALS: "Alpaca Handknitting DK" by KRAEMER YARNS, three skeins; knitting needles US size 6 (4.0 mm) OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE

FINISHED MEASUREMENT: 5.75" wide X 64" long

GAUGE: 24 sts / 43 rows = 4" in drop stitch pattern using US size 6 needles

TAKE TIME TO SAVE TIME, CHECK YOUR GAUGE

DROP STITCH PATTERN (multiple of 3 + 2)

Rows 1, 3 & 5 (RS): K2; *P1, K2; repeat from * across row.

Rows 2 and 4: P2; *K1, P2; repeat from * across row.

Row 6: P1; *drop next stitch off left-hand needle and unravel it 4 rows down so that there are 4 loose strands behind st; then insert right-hand needle from front into 5th st down and also under the 4 loose strands, and knit, drawing the st up and catching the strands behind it; P2; repeat from * across row.

Repeat rows 1 - 6 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS FOR SCARF

Cast on 35 sts using cable cast on method. Work in drop stitch pattern until piece measures approximately 64", ending with row 4 of pattern. Bind off all stitches in pattern. Weave in all ends. Block lightly to measurements.

Abbreviations: K- knit; P - purl; st(s) stitch(es)

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*** TIPS AND TECHNIQUES***

Although any cast-on method will get stitches onto your needles, choosing one with the right look for your project will add a professional-looking touch. Kathy chose the cable cast-on for the drop stitch scarf so that the first row worked will appear on the right side (public side) of the work with a smooth, clean edge.

Cable Cast on Method: Make a slip knot onto the left-hand knitting needle (LHN).

Insert the right-hand knitting needle (RHN) into the slip knot as if to knit (knitwise). Pull up a loop and place it on the LHN. *Insert the RHN between the two stitches and wrap yarn around the RHN knitwise. Pull the loop through and place it onto the LHN.

Repeat from * until the desired numbers of stitches are cast onto the LHN. If your work seems tight, try inserting the RHN between the two stitches before you pull the working yarn for the next stitch...

*** WORDS OF WISDOM ***

"Knitting is a journey in which eventually you discover that what at first appeared astounding is actually simpler than it seemed. There are experiences that challenge our skills, but most of all it comes down to that the best knits are made with patience and the basic, quality materials". Teva Durham

From TAHKI YARNS: "Vests are a knitter's best investment: they're seasonless, versatile, flattering and fashionable".

Design Note: "Cotton yarn looks better at a firmer gauge, and has less elasticity than wool. Be sure to check your gauge swatch. You might find that you need to go down a needle size than what you are normally used to knitting with when you work with wool".

Did you know that 36% of American women know how to knit or crochet? And this pastime shows no signs of stopping. Now that's a trend we can all encourage. Be sure to observe "National Knitting In Public Day" on Saturday, June 11, 2011...

*** SAVE THE DATE ***

Kathy Zimmerman and Carol Smith are pleased and excited to announce the next Kathy's Kreations Workshop will be held in Ligonier, PA, on September 30 - October 2, 2011 at the Ramada. We are taking reservations. The cost is \$175 per person which includes classes, breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday, Friday night pizza party at Kathy's Kreations, a birthday surprize for a special attendee (wonder who?), and a cocktail party at Carol's house Saturday night. 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.

The following classes are planned:

- Sangria Smocked Rib Fingerless Mitts with instructor Kathy Zimmerman. These mitts look like they are hand-smocked and the ribbed palm makes them fit "like a glove". Pattern and Kollage Yarns "1/2 n 1/2" will be provided . Additional student supplies include US size 2 double-pointed needles, stitch markers, and basics.
- Kathy's Lace and Cable Scarf (shown lower right) with instructor Kathy Zimmerman. Project yarn will be provided. Student supplies include US size 4 knitting needles, cable needle, row counter, basics (scissors, tape measure, tapestry needle)
- Basic toe-up sock featuring gusseted heel with instructor Jayme Glover. Sock is worked toe-up on two circular knitting needles. Pre-class work is optional but helpful in preparation to work the gusseted heel. Additional student supplies include 350 yards fingering weight sock yarn; two 24" circular knitting needles size 2.5 mm

To reserve a space for the workshop, mail your check for \$175 to Kathy's Kreations; 141 East Main Street; Ligonier, PA 15658. If you have questions, please call Kathy at 724-238-9320 or Carol at 724-757-4858. The workshop filled early last year and space is limited. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis as payments are received, so please don't delay.

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...



*** A FIRST FOR KATHY -- AN E-BOOK! ***

It is our pleasure to announce that Kathy has been selected as the featured designer for one of Interweave's newest eBooks, *Designer Profile eBook, with 6 Knitting Patterns by Kathy Zimmerman*.

Designer Profile eBook, with 6 Knitting Patterns by Kathy Zimmerman will include a comprehensive profile of Kathy written by the *Interweave Knits* editorial team, as well as six complete patterns presented as a convenient downloadable book. The six patterns that have been selected for this eBook are the Bed & Breakfast Pullover, the Lush Cables Pullover, Byzantine Basic Pullover, the Hawthorne Pullover, the Olympic Pullover, and the Mega Cables Pullover. The eBook will be offered online at InterweaveStore.com starting in June 2011. Kathy's individual patterns are also available on InterweaveStore.com.

*** WHERE'S KATHY???

- TNNA Needlearts Market June 11 - 13, 2011; Kathy's unisex Cables & Textures Vest, Hat & Scarf and the Drop Stitch Vest, Mitts & Hat, all for KRAEMER YARNS, will be featured in the fashion show (see lower right); Kathy's "At The Lake" sweater with KOLLAGE YARNS recycled jeans yarn "Riveting" and three neck warmer accessories in "Lofty" wool will be displayed in the KOLLAGE booth, plus designs for Knitter's summer 2011 issue; Kathy and Marilee will be searching the Show for the best new products available for fall -- details promised in the July newsletter
- Stitches Midwest August 25 - 28, 2011; Schaumburg, Illinois; teaching classes Knit To fit, Slip Stitch Sampler; Intro to Combining Lace & Cable; Ruffles, Frills and Scalloped Edgings.
- 26th Annual Knitter's Day Out; Friday & Saturday, September 9 & 10, 2011; Central PA College; Summerdale, PA; vendor and teaching All About V-Necks, Make It Your Own (Fit & Sizing), and the Sideways Knit Cabled Hat (provisional cast on, short rows, and cable knitting); details available at www.knittersdayout.org
- Bedford Springs Knittreat; November 3-6, 2011; Bedford Springs Resort & Spa; Bedford, PA; mini-market vendor featuring CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS and teaching "Button, Button", a technique workshop on buttonholes methods, buttonhole placement, "ribbing rules" and closure options. For information, call 412-963-7030 or e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com

*** YES, SCARVES FOR SUMMER! ***

Our observation: Lightweight scarves are everywhere this season, pulling together casual outfits as well as more dressy ones. Whether you choose ruffles, an openwork pattern, the seven circles scarf that doubles as jewelry, or a textured woven linen stitch, you can brighten up any outfit with an accessory! Ask to see our ideas...

*** EMBELLISHING TIP ***

One of our most frequently knit projects for spring & summer 2011 is the Linen Stitch Scarf from CHURCHMOUSE DESIGNS (\$5.50). We love this pattern so much that we have multiple scarves in progress. Pattie Sweeney passed along this tip for working this self-fringing sideways scarf. Pattie makes a slip knot and cleverly draws two fringe strands from previous rows through the slip knot, then secure the knot for fringe. Thanks for sharing your technique, Pattie!





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

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA on the first Monday of each month: **Monday, June 6, 2011; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** Please note that July's meeting date is **July 11, 2011, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** because of the Independence Day holiday. Come knit with us!

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, June 14, 2011, and July 12, 2011; 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, June 17, 2011, and July 15, 2011; 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. The June date is also "FRILLY FRIDAY", when Tracey will demo the Cafe Scarf in our hottest new yarn UNIVERSAL "Marina" (free pattern with yarn purchase, new shades are here). Bring along Crochet Ruffles, Barb's Ruffled Scarf, Molly Scarf, the Potato Chip scarf or work the Cafe Scarf -- if your project has ruffles (or not), you may knit or crochet along!

***** LAUREL HIGHLANDS KNITTING GUILD MEETING; June 23, 2011, 7 - 9 pm *****

All knitters are cordially invited to the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild meeting on Thursday evening, June 23, 2011, 7 pm - 9 pm, in Room A of the Ligonier Town Hall on the Diamond. You may attend twice as a guest before joining the group. The special program will be a Tunisian Crochet demo by Karen McCullough. Please bring along a US size G or H afghan hook or crochet hook, plus worsted weight yarn for swatching...

***** MEET AND GREET FOR GROUPS *****

Throughout this spring, we have welcomed several knitting groups to the shop for fiber field trips, including Three Rivers Knitters of Sewickley PA, Red Rows Knitters of Lancaster PA, the Knitting Friends Rostraver Public Library group of Rostraver PA (twice!), the Waltham KAL Ravelry Group and a variety of knitting friends on "girl's day out". On June 16, we will welcome 20 members of South Hills Knitting Guild of Pittsburgh PA. If your group would like to come for a meet and greet complete with a "designer demo" mini-class from Kathy, please give us a call and we will help you arrange a fun outing. We can also arrange a three-hour class for groups of four or more, to have Kathy or one of expert instructors teach the knitting topic of your choice...

Private knitting, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Group classes in a variety of intermediate knitting skills are being planned for later this summer, or 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 !

We love this little phrase seen on a coffee mug: "Stay calm and carry yarn". Hope your summer gets off to a great start. Do all things with love...

KEEP KNITTING AND CROCHETING! Kathy