

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724-238-9320
JUNE 2007 UPDATE

Dear Knitters,

Got a yen for some zen? Knitting has so frequently been dubbed "the new yoga" that the original source is obscure. The therapeutic, relaxing benefits of knitting are well known by those of us who find the rhythmic click of the needles to be nirvana.

"Knitting is a way to reconnect with others" says Bernadette Murphy, author of *Zen and The Art of Knitting*. "It's a lot different than instant messaging and trolling through MySpace, a lot more genuine". The reasons that knitters stick with knitting are as varied as the stitches in each individual hand-knit sweater, and perhaps impossible to completely unravel. Knitting enthusiasts agree that the needle artform is relaxing, stress-reducing and soothing to the soul.

We're planning some special events to kick off the summer stitching season in scenic Ligonier Valley, so make us a "must-go" destination. Step inside our shop and experience the joy of knitting and crocheting. We hope that you'll find Kathy's Kreations a place to socialize with other fiber enthusiasts, show off your projects (we'd love to see 'em!), browse through our large collection of patterns, get help, take classes and lay your hands and eyes on beautiful yarns. Get out your hooks and needles because we're offering two promotions this month, for twice as much fun and relaxation...

"DOUBLE DELIGHT"

**All regularly-priced bamboo yarns in stock AND
all regularly-priced bamboo knitting needles & crochet hooks
(all brands) in stock are 10% off during June 2007**

**Bring a friend, and if you both make a regularly-priced yarn purchase,
you both get "buy one & get one free" from our sale table**

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 and crochet 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

e-mail kathy@kathys-kreations.com

please visit our website www.kathys-kreations.com



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

Organic and organic-blend yarns are the big story in the needlework industry right now. Cathy Campbell of O-WOOL Yarns tells us in her current online post: "The demand for organic and sustainably produced yarn has increased tremendously over the past few months. Much of this is due to a heightened awareness that we, the human race, need to be kinder to the planet". We hope you'll check out our expanding range of environmentally-friendly choices, celebrated classics, family knits and these wonderful new items for your knitting and crocheting pleasure...

INTERWEAVE KNITS Summer 2007 (\$6.99) features 26 knits to live in, with easy shapes, sweet details and rich textures. The theme of this issue is "Family Matters", filled with both summery and transeasonal sweaters with endless wearing possibilities. We are pleased that two of Kathy's designs are included (shown upper left). KNITS says, "Kathy Zimmerman likes to combine traditional cable patterns in fresh, imaginative ways. In this pair of His and Hers HAND-IN-HAND CABLE SWEATERS, she's used a bold zigzag motif and balanced it with narrow, more linear cables. For His, she worked a bold, braided cable up the center. For hers, the button bands are bordered with a more subtle pattern. Plush two-by-two ribs trim the edges of these classics". These sweaters were worked with NASHUA HANDKNITS "Creative Focus Chunky", which can be found on our shelves (.

In addition to a fabulous array of sweaters and tops, there are Fair Isle caps, a cute dog sweater, motorcycle gloves, a lovely asymmetrical wrap, yoga mat carrier and bottle bag. In "Beyond The Basics", Ann Budd has a comprehensive article on working socks from the toe up, complete with a fabulous sock guide for sizing socks and a classic ribbed pattern. Sock projects have had a resurgence in popularity, and there is lots of excitement about CRYSTAL PALACE "Panda Cotton" and bamboo-cotton blend sock yarns...

In Japanese, "Takumi" means "craftsmanship". We are pleased to introduce TAKUMI VELVET knitting needles from CLOVER, made from the finest bamboo and polished for smoothness. Light in weight with a warm, natural touch, bamboo is the ideal material for making knitting needles. These needles are available in a gift set of 9" single points in sizes US 8 - 15 in a high quality fabric print case (\$65.95)...

If you want to treat yourself or buy a special gift for a knitting friend, try a pair of KNITTING DHARMA lucite glass knitting needles (\$35.95). These are currently available in size US 11, come with your choice of emerald or cobalt decorative sphere top, and have a lifetime guarantee. What a great way to get into "knit and relax" mode...

Knit 'n Style August 2007 (\$5.99, shown right) is their biggest issue ever, with 45 new designs for all seasons. Highlighted in this magazine is an interview with Knitty Gritty's Vickie Howell, as well as cool knits for guys and a terrific article by Margaret Radcliffe on "How to Plan Ahead for Perfect Finishing" (a "must-read" reference for all skill levels with some great tips). If you have a variety of leftover wools suitable for felting, check out the patchwork tote for a clever way to use them. We also love Nicky Epstein's Cherry Blossom Time felted purse...



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

SKACEL COLLECTION has taken felting to the next level. "Artfelt" is an amazing, exciting new product that combines the easiest aspects of needle felting, wet felting, and wet fulling into one simple process. Each kit (\$40.95) contains enough roving and Easyfelt paper to make either a scarf, several pillows, or a purse. It also contains two barbed felting needles, one plastic sheet for felting, and an instructional slide show DVD. You begin with the Easyfelt paper as the base for each project, work the design with Easyfelt merino roving from ZITRON, and in less time than with any of the three traditional methods you can create felt that is as thin as paper, allowing you to design scarves (upper right) and shawls that drape and move, or thick and sturdy enough for purses and totes, jackets, vests, hats, and other items. Actually, the word "amazing" is something of an understatement. When your project is felted to the degree you desire, dissolve away the Easyfelt paper with boiling water, leaving your creations ready to air dry or felt further in the dryer. Artfelt is revolutionary, delightful, simple enough for a beginner to master but with applications for artists of all levels, endlessly engaging, and more fun than should be legal...



© 2007 Skacel Collection

June is a month filled with special occasions and enchanted evenings. Wraps, shawls and stoles are perfect to take along as a quick cover-up in air conditioning buildings or after sunset. PLYMOUTH YARN "Ruffled Shawl" Pattern 1157 (\$3.95, shown lower left) can be worked in a variety of fibers from synthetic blends to rich cashmere, and the feminine styling will go with almost anything in your wardrobe...

What will you knit today? Imagine the possibilities with UNIVERSAL YARNS! This is our newest addition, and we think that you will be just as impressed with the colorways as we were. Knit, Relax, Smile, repeat!

- WISDOM YARNS "Skye" (\$11.50, 100% wool, 100 grams, 120 yards) a bulky weight felting yarn with special effect self-stripping colorations
- WISDOM YARNS "Duet" (\$11.50, 100% wool, 100 grams, 220 yards) worsted weight felting yarn with self-stripping and marl companion colorways to mix and match; very unique combinations for tote bags
- WISDOM YARNS "Fair Isle" (\$11.50, 100% wool, 100 grams, 220 yards) worsted weight with Fair Isle effect self-stripping colorways
- WISDOM YARNS "Poems" (\$6.00, 100% wool, 50 grams, 109 yards) worsted weight single ply gently muted, monochromatic colorways
- WISDOM YARNS "Sonnet" (\$9.50, 75% wool / 25% silk, 50 grams, 93 yards) worsted weight single ply gently muted, monochromatic colorways
- WISDOM YARNS "Inspire" (\$8.50, 75% acrylic / 25% wool, 100 grams, 220 yards) worsted weight machine washable blend in Fair Isle self-stripping; very popular for kids clothing, "Wonderful Wallaby" hoodies and prayer shawls
- UNIVERSAL YARNS "Moods" (\$10.50, 50% wool / 50% acrylic, 100 grams, 197 yards,) slow two-color variegations in dramatic black & color
- UNIVERSAL YARNS "Deluxe Worsted LP" (\$11.50, 100% wool, 100 grams, 220 yards) worsted weight variegated felting yarn
- UNIVERSAL YARNS "Classic Worsted LP" (\$6.50, 80% acrylic, 20% wool, 100 grams, 197 yards) worsted weight machine wash and dry variegated yarn; good choice for kids' clothing, prayer shawls



© 2007 Plymouth Yarn



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

Summer is a great time to catch up on your reading (fiber-related, of course). We've got some goodies for you. The long-awaited *Knitting Never Felt Better* by Nicky Epstein (\$29.95, hardcover, shown left) is rated "top notch" by our staff. If knitting never felt better, then it never looked better either. As always, Nicky Epstein impressed us with her imagination and the depth of her creativity. More than 150 swatches accompany the 20 gorgeous projects, with her signature embellishments -- bobbles, flowers, cables, stitch patterns and much more. This book is trail-blazing in that Nicky adds an unexpected dimension to textures and colorwork (you'll never look at a bag of mixed nuts in the same way). Nicky's exquisite taste is apparent throughout the book as she introduces the reader to the fabulous potential of one of today's hottest knitting trends, felting...

Who's going to help you when you drop a stitch in the middle of the night when Kathy's Kreations is closed and there's no one to turn to? *When Bad Things Happen to Good Knitters*, of course (\$10.95, softcover)! Call them knitting nanas, call them knitting fairy godmothers, authors Marion Edmonds and Ahza Moore are there to hold your hand and tell you everything is going to be all right. Whether your pattern seems to be written in a foreign language you don't understand, or you've forgotten to increase, been knitting in the wrong pattern sequence for the past few rows, or can't get your head through the neckband of your newly finished pullover, these gals give you level-headed advice on what to fix, how to fix it and when you just can't fudge it. With over 100 years of combined experience, they've seen it all and fixed it all and are there to help with this emergency survival guide...

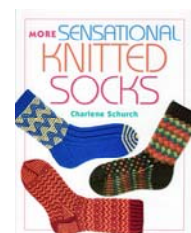
VOGUE KNITTING *Bags Two* (\$12.95) is the latest installment in the popular "On The Go" Series. You will find a wealth of patterns for evening bags, felted bags, everyday carryalls, shopping totes, even a freeform bag. You will find bags that you didn't even know that you needed, like the market bag or bottle bag to remind you to get your eight glasses a day. The impressive quality and variety of beautiful handles and hardware available on our shelves will help you take full advantage of how beautiful a custom handbag can be...

The 'I Hate to Finish Sweaters' Guide to Finishing Sweaters: 2nd Edition (\$13.50, spiral bound paper) by Janet Szabo is a detailed, practical guide to help you finish like a professional. Finishing involves more than seaming pieces together. Janet approaches the topic in a way that considers finishing from the very start, with handy pointers for successful endings. This is the book which Kathy uses when teaching finishing finesse -- the illustrations for seaming are particularly outstanding. This book will become your "finishing bible"...

Fans of Debbie Macomber, rejoice! *Back On Blossom Street* (\$24.95, hardcover) re-joins a familiar cast of characters from the previous books: *The Shop On Blossom Street*, *A Good Yarn*, and *Susannah's Garden*. Debbie Macomber is an adept storyteller, known for her honest portrayals of real women with real problems becoming real friends. In this case, the characters are drawn together through a knitting class. Anyone who has ever developed a friendship through knitting will be able to identify and enjoy this novel. It's highly-recommended vacation reading...

***** EVEN MORE GREAT BOOKS AND NEW PRODUCTS *****

Knitters love sequels to their favorite books. Discover more patterns, more stitches, and more styles with *More Sensational Knitted Socks* by Charlene Schurch (\$27.95, softcover, shown at right). This follow-up to the award-winning best-seller *Sensational Knitted Socks* presents new possibilities for knitting great socks. Combine the yarn, gauge, stitch pattern, and size of your choice to knit more than 1,000 variations of adult and kid-sized socks. Start with 11 basic designs; then, try loads of different looks with an all-new stitch pattern library. Choose your favorite technique -- use four or five double-pointed needles or two circular needles; knit top down or toe up. You may even customize your socks with heel, toe, and cuff options. Socks are the ultimate take-along project for summer knitting on the go. Knit heaps of socks for fashionable feet...



Heartfelt (\$21.95, softcover) features 25 projects for stitched and felted accessories, ranging from adults' hats, bags, slippers and hair accessories to a gorgeous heirloom baby coat and a child's backpack. This book by Teresa Searle includes essential information on making felted knitting, plus tips and advice on applique and embroidery techniques...

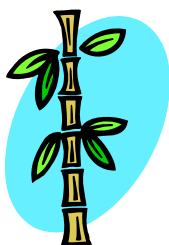
PLYMOUTH YARNS "WildflowerDK" 50% cotton / 50% acrylic easy-care yarn has been a customer favorite here for many years. We are pleased to introduce its big sister, "Jeannee" (\$3.50, 51% cotton / 49% acrylic, 50 grams, 111 yards), which knits at 4.5 sts / inch on US 8 knitting needles. "Jeannee" is not only affordable but is machine washable, which makes it ideal for kids wear, chemo hats, weekend casual sweaters, tote bags and a variety of projects...

If you haven't noticed yet, we are making it easier for you to go *green!* We are adding KOLLAGE YARNS to our shelves. Look for "Cornucopia" (100% corn fiber; yep, corn for sock knitting), "Yummy" (bamboo/merino), "Delicious" (100% soybean), Luscious (cotton/nylon for socks/sweaters -- great for those allergic to wool) and "Scrumptous" (70% angora/30% silk). Not only do we care about saving the planet with these Eco yarns, but PROJECT USA yarns will support American jobs and local charities as well. And those incredible square-sided knitting needles will be arriving soon, too. Veggies are good for you -- now you can knit and crochet them...

***** SKIN FRIENDLY BAMBOO *****

SCHOELLER STAHL tells us, "Bamboo is considered to be the textile innovation of the 21st century. And this is completely correct, because the fiber is created not only on a natural basis but it is also versatile in its positive features. Bamboo belongs to the regenerating raw materials and needs approximately 3 years to reach its maximum size.

During this total time, the plants grow without use of chemical pesticides. The special microstructure of the bamboo fiber makes it ideal for skin friendly textiles. It can absorb a high amount of moisture without feeling damp to the touch. This creates a comfortable coolness in the summer. The Chinese, who traditionally cultivate bamboo, award an antibacterial effect to the fiber. Thanks to its positive characteristics, bamboo wears like a second skin!" Not only is it thermo-regulating, but its pleasant, soft feel is very gentle and comfortable to wear..



***** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW *****

Dixie from Illinois would like to know if there is a neat method for weaving in ends and changing colors. Kathy prefers to attach new balls of yarn or change colors at the seam edge. The ends can be concealed by weaving them into the seam when assembling the garment. If working in the round, leave a couple of inches from each ball. Weave these in later with duplicate stitch on the inside of the garment. Hope this helps, Dixie!



Katie from PA asks, "What is corrugated ribbing"? According to Alice Starmore in *Alice Starmore's Book of Fair Isle knitting*, this is the name often given to the two-color rib pattern used on many Fair Isle garments. The stitch is usually a K2, P2 rib, but can be K1, P1. The knit stitches are worked in one color, and the the purl stitches in another. No more than two colors are worked in one round, and the yarn not in use is stranded across the wrong side of the work. The same two colors may be used throughout the rib or one or both colors may be changed at the beginning of the round. If colors are used on successive rounds, a change occurs to the middle rows of ribbing, then progresses backward to the beginning colors at the end of the ribbing, for a "mirrored" effect.

Corrugated rib is worked on smaller needles than the body, and is firm, durable and less elastic than ribbing worked in a single color. If using the two-handed method of stranded knitting, Kathy finds that it is easier to work the purl stitches right-handed with the American method of throwing and the knit stitches with the left hand using the Continental method of "picking". Corrugated ribbing looks very striking as the cuff of a simple knit hat...

***** GAUGE IS NOT A FOUR-LETTER WORD *****

Launder or block your swatch before taking your gauge measurement. Cleaning or wetting may alter the gauge. It is crucial to know if your garment will "grow" after washing...

As you are working a garment, your gauge can change. To avoid surprises, check your gauge as you progress. Transfer your work to a blocking wire or a smaller weight piece of scrap cotton yarn in a contrasting color and then measure. Do not measure directly from the work on your needle as this may distort the gauge. Many of us knit or crochet more tightly when we are tense or stressed out...

During the summer months, your hands may become sweaty. Be sure to take a break for hand-washing to keep your work clean and avoid undesirable changes in change...

Having trouble getting the gauge? Try different types of needles (we've got a large variety for you to choose from). Some fibers have alot of "drag" and will slide easier on metal needles. Other yarns, such as wool, mohair or slippery cottons may be easier to work on bamboo or wooden needles...

If you knit tighter than you purl (or vice versa) and experience "railroad track" lines in your work, you may need to use two different-sized needles. Use the larger needle for the rows that you tend to work tightly...

Colorwork patterns are gaining popularity. If you are working a project with solid areas alternating with Fair Isle or stranded knitting, you may need to use a larger size needle for those areas worked with more than one color. This also applies to slip-stitch or brioche patterns which result in a more compact row gauge. Conversely, garter or seed stitch bands may spread laterally, needing a smaller needle to maintain gauge...

***** SUMMER 2007 FASHION TRENDS *****

Summer 2007 sees womenswear distancing itself from the clutter of decoration and moving towards a more honest and simple approach to dressing. Cleanline classics are again re-visited, showing an elegant side as well as a more graphic and sporty side. Silhouettes are referencing the body once more, the cinch waist being the most extreme expression. Whether we choose to take the route of refined classic elegance or energetic youthful playfulness, the key consideration is simplicity.

Source: Design Lines August '06, Newsletter of the Association of Knitwear Designers

***** TOUCH ME SCARF *****

Tarie Dillard-Williams of Yarn Heaven posted this pattern to the Internet shopowners list last January, after a discussion about ironing chenille yarn. Our thanks to Tarie for sharing this with the group.

MATERIALS: Muench "Touch Me" chenille yarn 3 balls; US size 7 16" circular knitting needles

GAUGE: not critical (will expand after ironing)

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 15 sts. Knit 5 rows.

Row 1 (right side): Knit.

Row 2: K3, P9, K3.

Repeat rows 1 & 2 until about 10 yards of yarn remains. Knit 5 rows. Bind off.

Finishing: Turn on iron to highest setting possible, making certain it is filled with water.

The hotter the steam, the faster and better it works. Press for about 5 minutes. Let dry

for about 5 minutes. Fall in love with your new finished project, which looks and feels like velvet.

***** ECOLOGIE BABY BIB *****

FINISHED SIZE: Approx. 5" X 6"

MATERIALS: One ball NASHUA HANDKNITS "Natural Focus Ecologie Cotton" (100% naturally dyed pima cotton, 50 grams, 110 yards); US size 6 knitting needles; stitch holder; small piece of Velcro

GAUGE: 5.5 sts / 10 rows = 1"

Garner Basketweave Pattern Stitch (multiple of 4 + 3)

Rows 1 & 3 (RS, right side): Knit.

Row 2: *K3, P1; repeat from * across row.

Row 4: K1, *P1, K3; repeat from * across row.

Repeat rows 1 - 4 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: Cast on 27 sts. Work in garner basketweave pattern until piece measures 4" from beginning, end WS (wrong side).

Shape square neck: Work 7 sts, place remaining 20 sts on hold. Continue on 7 sts for 2" more, end WS. Place 20 sts on hold back onto needle. Bind off center 13 sts. Work in garner basketweave pat for 2" more, end WS. BO rem 7 sts.

Back Strap: With right side (RS) facing, pick up and knit 3 sts at inside edge of neck.

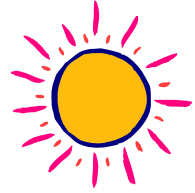
Work for 3.5". BO. Work another strap in the same manner. Sew velcro securely to end of each strap. Overlap one strap over the other to close at back of neck.



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***** **READER'S KNIT NIGHT** *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting on **Mondays, June 4, 2007, and July 2, 2007 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA. June's gathering will be hosted by Joyce Bischoff and will feature "Party Knits". In July, Kathy will review "Back to Blossom Street" by Debbie Macomber and other selected books for great knitting-related summer reading...



***** **"KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS*******

Tuesday evenings, June 12, 2007, and July 10, 2007, from 7 - 9 pm

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting, lots of fun conversation and plenty of advice from experienced knitters. The June knit in will be a "Knit Out" at the courtyard in front of the Ligonier Town Hall. In the event of inclement weather, we meet as usual at Kathy's Kreations. The shop will be open for browsing and purchasing supplies before and after "Knit Out". All skill levels are welcome -- come, sit & knit!

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

Private knitting, crochet, felting and hairpin lace lessons available by appointment.

"FUN FRIDAY" with Joyce Bischoff: Fridays, June 15 & June 22, 2007, 10 am - 2 pm

It's fun, it's free -- join us to knit or crochet! Our instructor Joyce is available for knitting help with your questions and skill-building. There is no charge to attend, but please call ahead to let us know you will be coming. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor. In the event of inclement weather, please check with us regarding possible delay or cancellation.

"FREEBIE DAY" at Kathy's Kreations, Saturday, June 30, 2007

We'll be bringing our "zen month" to a close with Oriental-inspired refreshments & snacks, a "freebie" (one per customer), and door prizes...

The Ligonier Valley Historical Society is planning a Sheep To Shawl Event for Saturday and Sunday, July 21 - 22, 2007, in association with the Loyalhanna Spinners and Weavers. Planned activities will feature rug weaving outdoors between the trees, an auction of shawls, spinning, weaving and other fiber-related fun. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming newsletters...

Kathy's Kreations will again be sponsoring the 3rd annual "Design-A-Scarf" contest the this summer's Westmoreland County Fair. All entries must be an original design knitted or crocheted scarf worked with NASHUA HANDKNITS yarn. The pattern design and yarn labels must be submitted with each entry. Scarf entries will not be eligible for Best of Show ribbon. Prizes to be awarded are gift certificates to Kathy's Kreations in the amounts of \$20 for third place, \$30 for 2nd place, and \$40 for 1st place. We know how creative our customers can be, so we hope to see plenty of entries this year...

It's summer at last -- the days are longer, the air is warmer, so make time to enjoy your knitting and crocheting. We make it easy with simple take-along projects to keep you happily stitching away throughout the season. Stop by to see the latest products. **KEEP KNITTING!**

Kathy

