

KATHY'S KREATIONS
141 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
724 - 238-9320
JUNE 2009 UPDATE



Dear Knitters,

The trees are green, the air at last has that familiar summer fragrance, the days are growing longer and you just can't help but feel a little brighter when the sun is shining. What better time to focus your energy on a new knitting project? We all need it more than ever -- to lessen our loads, relieve our stress and re-energize our spirits.

What's on your needles? A One-skein wonder? Market bag? Socks? Shawl? Scarf? Gift item? Pillow? Whether your fancy is knit, crochet, punch needle embroidery or Oxford Rug Punch, we cater to all skill levels of stitchers, from novice to the most advanced.

There's a whole lot going on at Kathy's Kreations this summer. Did you know that Kathy's Kreations was chosen by *Knitter's Stash* as one of America's best-loved yarn shops? You can count on our experienced staff, accredited instructors and friendly service -- it's made us a gathering place for over thirty years. We've got the area's largest collection of the most up-to-date yarns, stitching tools and the "how-to"s to help you express your own creative vision. As we all know,

"HAPPINESS IS MORE YARN"

**Purchase 2000 yards of regularly-priced yarns
in stock to receive 10% off during JUNE 2009**

**Note: Summer Sunday hours will begin June 15, 2009
open 12 noon - 4:00 pm on Sundays**

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 ***

It's summer and stitching should be carefree. Our focus is on simplicity this season. As the upcoming issue of *Knitter's* tells us, "Relax, Reflect & Refresh. And that's what we want you to do this summer. Rather than thinking big, let's think fun". We've gathered a bevy of the best buys in yarns, magazines, patterns and gadgets, all with fun (and you) in mind...

KNITTER'S K95 Summer 2009 (\$5.99) is an issue full of projects that are manageable -- things you'll enjoy making and finishing. The is a jam-packed issue that will surely inspire you to keep knitting in the warmer days ahead. We are pleased that four of Kathy's designs are featured in this issue about which *Knitter's* says:

"Desert Flower" (shown upper left) -- "Scarves are ever popular, so why not make the perfect accessory for summer? Pick a beautiful stitch pattern and a yarn with plenty of drape, and you are set. When not in use, make sure to display it as a home decor accessory -- it makes a perfect table runner or dresser scarf"

"Glazed Carrot" (shown lower right) -- "Be prepared to stop traffic in orange -- the color used for traffic barriers. Besides the glowing color, this sweet jacket has all the details -- fine stitching, great buttons, silhouette, and vents -- perfect for you to proceed full speed ahead in style"

"Vanilla Leaves" (shown p. 5) -- "Bands of leaves become columns along the length of a tunic. The sleek silhouette and creamy color make summer dressing a breeze. The rayon-and-linen yarn is perfect for texture and drape"

"Point Set Match" (shown p. 8) -- "Terrific tailoring makes this a stand-out jacket. The point hemline and collar add feminine flair -- perfect with a jabot, ruffle or standard blouse. This is truly a multi-seasonal jacket"

CLASSIC ELITE "Sprout" (\$10.95, 100 grams, 109 yards, 100% organic cotton, CYCA yarn classification 5) is a soft, cushy, chunky 100% organic yarn. Its slight nubby texture doesn't detract from stitch patterns. Quite the opposite! Worked in bold knit-and-purl patterns, it highlights the play of opposing textures. And one of its best features is that it stays lofty, unlike many worsted-plus weight cotton yarns that tend to be heavy and dense once knitted. Kathy used this yarn for Interweave Knits Summer 2009 U-Neck "Sprout Tee". During June, CLASSIC ELITE YARNS basketweave baby blanket pattern is free with the purchase of "Sprout" to make the project.

"Sprout" is spun from Tanguis cotton. This stout hardy cotton plant was developed in the early 1900's as a response to an infestation of wilt disease that was decimating one of Peru's major exports. Tanguis is named after its developer, Fermin Tanguis. The plant's ubiquitous presence and dependability have earned it the title "white gold" from the farmers who plant and harvest it...

Show your knitting pride with a DEBRA'S GARDEN precise needle gauge pendant (\$18.00) -- it's the hottest new accessory to have! The 1.5" X 1.25" light weight gauge check is as beautiful as it is accurate. Sized from US 0 - 17, use it as a pendant on your favorite chain, as a key ring, or bag charm. It even makes a useful zipper pull on your knitting notions bag. The numbers on the gauge are lasered in, and there is no paint to ever wear off. Don't you love it when knitting gadgets are pretty as well as practical?



JUST IN -- new sizes of KOLLAGE YARNS square double-pointed needles in US 5, 6, 7, & 8!

*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

We have two new patterns from Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS (\$4.00 each). "Quick & Cozy" AC-018 (shown right) is a pair of collar-style neck warmers embellished with fashion-savvy hand-crafted buttons from BULL'S EYE BUTTONS. Knit with chunky weight yarn in a textured bamboo stitch rib pattern, choose between a simple crossover style (shown in MANOS DEL URAGUAY "Wool Classica") or add a ruffled edge with an accent yarn (ours is BROWN SHEEP "Lambs Pride Bulky" with a TRENDSETTER "Dune" ruffle). One of these will definitely glam up a little black dress or casual T-neck. It's not too early to start thinking about quick, one-skein holiday gifts. "Cherries" SW-040 (shown lower left) is the sweetest little girl's outfit we've seen in a long time. A simple drop-shoulder cardigan is accented with a picot piping edge and embellished with 3-D cherries, and a precious hat to match. Kudos to Lisa for her fabulous selection of knitter-friendly patterns...



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Lisa Knits

Having problems keeping your place on a knitting or crochet pattern? LEE PRODUCTS "Highlighter Tape" (\$2.95) is a removable alternative to permanent highlighter pens. With this 3-line yellow tape, you can highlight areas in books, magazines, documents -- on any paper without leaving permanent marks. It's transparent, easy to apply, and when you're done, carefully pull it off. Take it from Kathy Zimmerman, who works with plenty of cable charts, this is a great idea whose time has come...

We can't resist cute new gadgets, especially in small packages. GRAPHIC IMPRESSIONS "Itty Bitty Scissors" (\$6.50) are teeny tiny snips less than 2" long but simple to use. These are great for on-the-go projects and can't be much easier. These scissors will attach to anything including your cell phone. Clip and go...

Tired of searching in your knitting bag for all the items you need for knitting? The KNIT KIT is your perfect solution (\$20.50), like a Swiss Army knife for knitters. It includes a tape measure, stitch counter, thread cutter, scissors, crochet hook, stitch holders and tip protectors all on one compact device that fits in the palm of your hand. There is no need to continually buy various accessories when you can have it all in one. Great for traveling by car or plane, you'll never lose your knit knacks again...

KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO "Ty Dy" (\$14.50, 100 grams, 197 yards, 100% cotton) is our very popular, rainbow-dyed, self-striping cotton with a tie-dye look. It has a super-soft feel with a smooth plied finish. New shades like forget-me-not, gold rush and midnight sun have recently arrived, along with new pattern support (\$4.50 each):

Carnival Top #1588: slimming swing-style bodice is worked side to side and is shaped with the use of short rows; U-neck and cap sleeve make this ideal for all summer long comfort

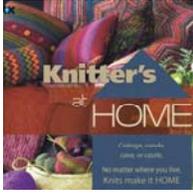
This'n That Tee #1574 (shown p. 7, lower right): short sleeved modular-knit pullover with mitered body, clever raglan sleeve shaping, very slimming lines

Slant on Nature #1514: fronts are worked on the diagonal; back is worked with 2 separate corners, then all sts are placed back on the same needle; a flattering diagonal leaf and rib pattern keep it light, airy and very feminine

Best Fit Vest #1502: multi-directional vest is worked with central panels from bottom up, and then with side panels from the center out; unique construction



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Lisa Knits



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Cottage, condo, cave, or castle -- no matter where you live, knits make it home. A collection from the archives of *Knitter's Magazine*, *Knitter's At Home* (\$19.95, softcover, shown left), this book welcomes us home. Home is where our days begin and end. Home is where we dream our dreams, pursue our passions, and plan our projects. Home is where we create beauty, warmth, and comfort -- one stitch at a time. From traditional Americana to soft geometry, we're certain you will be inspired by the gorgeous colors and textures of these projects...

From Danish designer Marianne Isager comes *Classic Knits* (\$24.95, softcover), a stitch technique guide and gallery of design inspiration in one book! *Classic Knits* features more than 20 traditional, appealing projects worked in basic knit and purl stitch patterns, each with a distinctive design element such as a combination of yarns, a clever use of stitch pattern, or an unusual form of construction. Knitting techniques include color stranding, double knitting, slip stitch, herringbone, and more. An extra bonus for summertime knitting -- there is minimal finishing. The garments have been designed to require as little finishing as possible, and several of the garments are worked from the top down, so it's easy to add or remove rows to customize the lengths...

What can a knitter do with just one ball of yarn? For those who want to knit something up quickly, experiment with a variety of yarns, or use their stash of "odd" balls, *One Ball Knits Accessories* (\$18.95, softcover) offers 20 stylish and easy answers to their questions. Patterns are organized by yardage required, and the projects are ideal for weekend knitting and last-minute gifts. We love the hand jewelry for weddings...

People may think that prayer shawls come from a specific religious tradition. Not so -- these lovingly knitted wraps are made for anyone and any occasion. *The Prayer Shawl Companion* (\$19.95, softcover) features 38 patterns that includes designs for celebrations, as well as solace and remembrance...

Knitting is a lot like life -- dropped stitches and all! Now you can "Knit Along with Debbie Macomber" and all your favorite characters from her novels. Experience the rewards of knitting, just like the women on Blossom Street and Cedar Cove, with knitting instruction booklets for the patterns described in the books. Laced with excerpts from Debbie's novels, each knitting instruction book retains the warm, friendly atmosphere created by this gifted author. Read Debbie Macomber's insightful stories of love and friendship, then knit up a little creativity from LEISURE ARTS. Titles include:

The Shop On Blossom Street (\$11.95) 11 darling baby blankets

A Good Yarn (\$11.95) 12 patterns for beautiful hats, socks, sweaters, a poncho, & more.

Back on Blossom Street (\$12.95) includes 5 prayer shawls, a knitted lace wedding invitation, beanie cap, infant romper, cardigan and a scarf set.

Twenty Wishes (\$12.95) scarves, a felted book carrier, lap robe, spa set, doily, beaded garter, dog coat, afghan, baby bonnet & mittens, girl's & women's sweaters

Debbie's Favorites (\$12.95) caps, scarves, and sweaters for your loved ones, chosen by Debbie's readers

Friendship Shawls (\$12.95) ten friendship / prayer shawls to make and share

The Cedar Cove Collection (\$12.95) ten fun, stylish fashions plus home decor to inspire you, four Warm Up America afghan squares and recipes

*** KNITTING IS GOOD FOR YOU ***

We at Kathy's Kreations understand personally the therapeutic effects of knitting and crocheting. Mary Colucci, Executive Director of The Craft Yarn Council recently wrote in *Yarn Market News*: "While antedoctal evidence about the benefits of needlecrafts abounds, scientific evidence that quantify it have been lacking. Until now. Earlier this year, researchers at the Mayo Clinic reported in a study of 50- to 65- year-olds that those who knit, quilt and engage in similar activities were found to reduce their risk of memory loss in later years by 30-50%.



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An article in the March 2009 issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine*, discussed ways to reduce stress: "take up knitting" was one of five key points mentioned". Other studies cited showed that repetitive motion and focus of needlework can elicit what is known as the relaxation response, a calming meditationlike state. Dr. Paul Nussbaum, a neuropsychologist at the University of Pittsburgh is quoted as saying, "using both hands works both sides of your brain". There are clinical research projects to establish how knitting and crafts can lead to physiological changes in the body and can be used to actually treat disease and maintain optimum health. Imagine the future: craft therapy centers, doctors prescribing craft therapy to their patients, even craft therapists in hospitals...

*** KATHY ZIMMERMAN GUEST TEACHER AT KNITTER'S DAY OUT 2009 ***

Knitter's Day Out is a one-day, one-evening event in the Harrisburg, PA area with the goal of promoting knitting. The 24th annual KDO 2009 will be held on Friday, **September 25 and Saturday, September 26, 2009** at the Central Pennsylvania College. We are pleased that Kathy is one of the "headliner" guest teachers on Saturday. She will be teaching two three-hour classes -- one on slip-stitch colorplay and one on cables, featuring an original scarf design.

*** KRISTIN KNITS TRUNK SHOW SPECIAL EVENT ***

Kathy's Kreations is planning a special treat for our customers, one inspired by color. Twenty contemporary, stunningly beautiful projects from the book *Kristin Knits*, written by Kristin Nicholas, will be showcased here from **July 31 - August 11, 2009**. All projects are worked with warm, vibrant shades of our lovely NASHUA HANDKNITS "Julia" yarn. If you are confident with your knitting needles, but still feel a little unsure about improvising with color, take inspiration from these charming, imaginative handknit garments to find your own color language. Your results will shine!

*** KNITTING TIPS & HELPFUL HINTS ***

Kathy suggests enlarging knitting patterns and stitch charts, then having them laminated to protect from spills. Try our new highlighter tape to follow along in the pattern. Save your originals for use again at a later time, clean and unwrinkled...

"When using hand-painted yarns, buy more yarn than you think you will need. Dye lots rarely match. If you need to work with different dye lots, alternate yarn from two different skeins / dye lots every two rows. Don't be afraid to mix yarns from different companies. Many complement each other very well. If you are worried about striping, try slip-stitch pattern stitches. Texture of any kind tends to break up stacking of colors. By working side to side or cuff to cuff, any striping runs vertically and improves the line of your garment".

Original source Leslie Taylor & Diane McKay, Mountain Colors Yarn

*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

"Customer Appreciation Day" - Saturday, June 20, 2009, 9 am - 5 pm

Come into the shop wearing or carrying a project made with yarn purchased at Kathy's Creations and receive a free market bag kit in your choice of knit or crochet with your purchase (\$11.00 value)

"Spa Day" - Friday, July 17, 2009, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm; and Saturday, July 25, 2009, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Nutrimetics consultant Nancy Premoshis (also one of our shopgals) will be here to pamper you with a hand massage, advice on skin care, a free sample of "Active Hand Cream" (one per customer, please) and a complimentary bath mitt pattern from Kathy

"A Woolly Garden Rug" Community Service Project; Saturday, July 18, 2009, 9 am - 5 pm

Our way of helping the Westmoreland Area Food Bank -- details on next page

"Summer in Ligonier" Friday & Saturday, July 24 & 25, 2009

Arts & crafts on the Diamond, merchants' sidewalk sales and much more

"The Stroll" Friday, August 14, 2009, 5 - 9 pm

A relaxing evening on the town, in Ligonier!

*** KATHY'S FAVORITE MARKET BAG TO KNIT ***

From June through September, we have a wonderful Country Market in Ligonier every Saturday morning from 8 am - 12 noon featuring crafts, baked goods, plants, produce, food booths, and much more. This stretchy tote is ideal for farmer's market or grocery shopping -- you'll want to make more than one!

SIZE: approx. 15" high (excluding handles) X 15" diameter

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn (CYCA yarn classification 4) approx. 500 yards; US size 9 knitting needle, straight and 24" circular; two small holders; tapestry needle for finishing (Kathy's sample worked in NASHUA HANDKNITS "Cilantro" 70% cotton / 30% polyester)

GAUGE: approx. 4.5 sts / 6 rows = 1" in dropped seed stitch pattern

SEED STITCH (All rows, uneven number of stitches) K1; *P1, K1; repeat from * across row.

DROPPED SEED PATTERN STITCH (multiple of 2, worked circularly)

Rows 1 & 3: * K1, P1; repeat from * around.

Row 2: *P1, K1; repeat from * around.

Row 4: Knit around, working each stitch by wrapping it twice.

Row 5: Dropping extra wrap, *K1, P1; repeat from * around.

Rows 6 & 7 : Repeat rows 2 & 3.

Repeat rows 4 - 7 for pattern stitch.

Directions: BASE (3" wide X 12") : With straight needles, cast on 13 sts. Work in seed stitch until piece measures approx. 12" in length (72 rows). Bind off all sts in pattern.

Body of bag: With circular knitting needles & beginning at cast-on edge of base, pick up & knits sts along edges of base as follows: 13 sts at cast-on edge, 54 sts along side edge, 13 sts along bound-off edge, 54 sts along side edge: 134 sts. Worked in rounds of dropped seed stitch pattern until piece measures 15" or desired length above base.

Top: Repeat rows 2 & 3 three times.

Handles: Bind 4 sts, K 5 sts & place on hold, bind off remaining sts. Place 5 sts back onto straight needles. Work back & forth in seed stitch pattern until handle measures 24" or desired length. Bind off in pattern.

Sew bound off edge to opposite end of bag. Weave in ends.

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*** ANNOUNCING A VERY SPECIAL HAPPENING ***

Florals, butterflies and dragonflies are very fashion-forward themes this season. Gardens are a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow, as the flowers of all tomorrows are the seeds of today. We are so pleased to announce a special project that was the "seed" of our own Tracey Earhart, and is rapidly gaining national (yes, we mean NATIONAL) attention. On Saturday, July 18, 2009, 9 am - 5 pm, Tracey and her "Punchette" students will come together in the Downstairs Room at Mommy Gear, located behind Kathy's Kreations to work on "A Woolly Garden Rug", with proceeds to benefit the Westmoreland County Food Bank. "Mommy Gear" has graciously donated the use of the room. There will be a potluck lunch at 12 noon.

Tracey is the area's only Certified Oxford Rug Punch Instructor and the day is open to all of her previous students. Each student will punch a 10" X 10" square, which will be assembled into a large rug. The rug is garden-themed, and each student may choose templates of veggies, fruits, flowers, birds, bees, butterflies, etc., or design their own. The rug will be on display at Kathy's Kreations during the month of August. ALL of the proceeds from the rug will go to the Food Bank, with the final drawing on Labor Day Weekend. The "Woolly Garden Rug" will help provide food for many families.

Kathy's Kreations is also having a non-perishable fruit and veggie drive (to continue the theme of the rug) now through Labor Day. We will be collecting canned goods, dried fruits / veggies or juice. You may drop off your donation during business hours. There is also a basket of vintage pattern booklets which have been donated by Kathy and several customers -- the patterns are free with a donation to the Food Bank "piggy banks".

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following business for their support of this project & fun day of rug punching and sharing:

Mommy Gear -- donation of the Downstairs Room for the day

Barb Carroll of The Woolley Fox -- donation of yarn & website publicity

Amy Oxford, Oxford Rug Punch Tool inventor -- donating yarn & website publicity

Halcyon Blake, Halcyon Yarns -- donation of yarn & publicity

Kathy's Kreations -- donation of yarn & website / general publicity

Tracey -- monks cloth, event planner, rug assembly, beverages for the stitching event

For more information, please e-mail Tracey Earhart at halfmoonhollow@gmail.com with "community rug punch" in the subject line for a flyer. All volunteers must pre-register by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320. If you wish to learn how to rug punch in order to participate, a class will be held at Kathy's on Saturday, July 11, 2009, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm (call for details)...

*** BIG BUTTON EVENT ***

Thanks to many customers who helped to make the Big Button Event with artist Eileen Petre of Bull's Eye Buttons and Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS such a rousing success. By popular demand, Eileen will be back again to join us in the fall (date to be announced).

*** DESIGN YOUR OWN SCARF CONTEST ***

It's time to start your entries for the August 2009 Westmoreland County Fair "Design Your Own Scarf" contest sponsored by Kathy's Kreations. This year's theme is "natural fiber" -- scarves must be an original design, using 100% natural (animal or plant) yarns. Please ask for details...





***** READER'S KNIT CLUB *****

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Mondays, June 1, 2009, and July 6, 2009, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm** at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Route 30, Greensburg, PA...

***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, June 9, 2009, and July 14, 2009, from 7 - 9 pm (rsvp please) *****

Join members of the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild for an evening of knitting & lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit!

***** FUN FRIDAYS, June 12, 2009, and July 10, 2009; 10 am - 2 pm with instructor Joyce Bischoff; rsvp (limited registration) *****

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce 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.

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

"Beginner Knitting" with Tracey Earhart; Saturday, May 30, 2009; 9:30 am - 12:00 noon; registration fee \$25.00*

*Class supplies include US #7 or #8 needles & worsted weight yarn; class size limited to 4 students, ages 10 and up.

"Let's Play with the Six-Strand Punchneedle" with instructor Helen Stetina; Saturday, June 6, 2009, your choice of 10 am - 1 pm OR 2 pm - 5 pm; registration fee \$35.00
Students should bring 6 strand punchneedle (also available for purchase here); 4" embroidery hoop; small, sharp scissors. Helen will provide weaver's cloth, canvas, lots of fun threads, tons of ideas and models to study.

"Learn to Rug Punch with the Oxford Rug Punch Needle" with Tracey Earhart; Saturday, July 11, 2009, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm; registration fee \$50.00

Includes rug punch frame, monk's cloth, instruction with Certified Oxford Rug Punch instructor & use of templates; for ages 10 and up; call for details about additional supplies

*Registration fee must be pre-paid at the time of registration to reserve a space in class. If you need to cancel, we will refund tuition up to 48 hours prior to the class. After that, we will refund half of the tuition in the form of a store credit. Unless noted, class fees do not include materials. Classes without a minimum of 4 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for inclement weather. Students may pre-register for classes by calling Kathy's Kreations at 724-238-9320 or sending e-mail to kathy@kathys-kreations.com

Private knitting, crochet, felting, punch needle and rug punch lessons available by appointment, with a discount to students purchasing their project supplies here.

Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 29 years!

One gorgeous ball of yarn -- imagine the possibilities! The pleasure of knitting and crocheting can be that much greater when you are working with something you enjoy, in just the perfect shade. We not only understand how fiber and texture can transform a piece, but we've got the skills to help you spark your creativity -- hope you'll stop by soon!

KEEP KNITTING! Kathy