



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



Dear Knitters,

Are you ready to "spring" forward, fashion-forward? Here at Kathy's Kreations, spring is in full swing with innovative, exciting products and ideas. It's time to shed the cold weather blahs, start fresh, and get ready for a brand new stitching season.

What trends are we seeing for spring? Definitely, knitters and crocheters are in love with lacy looks. Lace & cable combinations are resurgent, along with simple shapes and interesting details like collars, scoop necks, & cap sleeves.

We continue to move forward with the goal of reducing our impact on the earth, "green knitting". Each of us is becoming more aware of the environment and eco-friendly yarns keep nature in mind, by using low-impact dyes, by containing more organic plant fibers and by spinning these more locally.

In their latest newsletter, CLASSIC ELITE YARNS tells us 2009 has been designated as the "International Year of Natural Fibers". As part of this movement, we will be sponsoring our annual Design-A-Scarf Contest for the 2009 Westmoreland County Agricultural Fair with the theme of natural yarns (100% animal or plant fibers only).

We invite you to come meet our spring line-up of the latest yarns, patterns and accessories for your stitching pleasure, and,

" KNIT A CLASSIC "

**All regularly-priced CLASSIC ELITE YARNS (all weights)
in stock are 10% off during March 2009**

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 ***

Clean, open, airy, light -- INTERWEAVE KNITS Spring 2009 (\$6.99, shown left) tells us that spring knitting should feel as sweet as bright sunshine and clear water. There are 22 refreshing knits that explore "sheer" openwork, lace / cable combinations, and 9 inventive accessories. Our favorite design is Kenny Chua's "Sculptured Lace Scarf" which incorporates enough lace to be delicate yet enough cables to be masculine. There is a definite nature theme to this issue with clever botanical names for sweaters and elements of nature interpreted in the stitchwork. Cheeky pieces are interspersed with elegant touches and interesting construction like Vivian Hoxbro's mitered mesh-like textured duffel bag. This issue abounds with spare lines, subtle details, and minimal fuss. You won't want to miss the "Beyond The Basics" article on shaping lace with short rows -- a must for shawl knitters...

The sister magazine to INTERWEAVE KNITS is *Piecework* magazine (\$5.99). The March / April special issue is dedicated to textiles for historical re-enactment, of particular interest here with Ligonier Valley's heritage. There are "Civil War" socks with modern instructions, a 17th century undershirt, Edwardian monograms to embroider, a "sontag" ladies' wrap, and smocked childrens' clothing. This publication is a fascinating journey into folkwear, interpreting ethnic costume pieces into traditional style for today...

Every season, there seems to be one trendy fiber. This year's pick seems to be silk. And we've got a great yarn for you. NASHUA HANDKNITS "Creative Focus Silk" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 120 yards, CYCA yarn classification 4, 100% silk) is elegant, sublime and now graces our shelves. Our "Cap Sleeved Top" model garment (shown lower right) is on display -- this yarn works equally well for lacy designs or textures. Pattern booklet NHK39 "Creative Focus Silk" (\$9.50) also includes two designs by Kathy, highlighted in our February 2009 newsletter...

Just as there is one trendy fiber, there is also hot, hot, hot stitchwork and techniques. We've just come back from the Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Show, where lace knitting and openwork projects were quite popular. Our original pattern KNIT FOR THE CURE COLLECTION "Hope's Scarf" by Shanta Moitra (\$4.00), and our CROCHET FOR THE CURE "Lacey Scarf" by Betty Lou Glasso (\$4.00) sold out quickly. Now you can interpret these patterns with delicate, wispy shades of lace weight CRYSTAL PALACE "Kid Merino" (\$7.25, 25 grams, 240 yards, 28% kid mohair / 28% merino wool / 44% micro nylon, CYCA yarn classification 1), and ROWAN "Kidsilk Haze" (\$15.50, 25 grams, 220 yards, 70% super kid mohair / 30% silk, CYCA yarn classification 1). Beautiful spring green and orchid pink shades of "Kidsilk" can be transformed into a stunning shawl perfect for every spring occasion from proms to bridal showers to enchanted evenings. If you prefer larger needles, check out FIESTA YARNS two-strand "La Boheme" (\$29.95, 4 oz., 165 yards, 50% rayon/ 32% brushed kid mohair/ 14% wool / 4% nylon). This yarn is used in our shop models for LISA KNITS "On The Square Shawl" (\$4.00), KEEP IT SIMPLE "Ruffled Shawl" (\$4.95) and FIBER TRENDS "Lace Edged Shawl" (\$5.50) patterns. And, remember handknit or crochet shawls are versatile enough to wear every day as a wrap when the weather gets milder, and don't forget a decorative shawl pin...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

Maybe because our shopgal Jen and husband Matt are expecting their first baby this month, or maybe it's because Kathy's godson Rob & wife Melissa just welcomed Zander into their family last month, but there seems to be a lot of baby happenings lately. Babies always need cuddly blankies and FIBER TRENDS #CH-52 "Tulle Lace Baby Blanket" (\$5.95, shown upper right) is just the ticket for the special little one in your life. An allover tulle lace pattern from Eugen Beugler gives this blanket a delicate look while creating thermal warmth. A perfect size for the bassinet or carrying baby, this blanket is sturdy enough for everyday use, but pretty enough for christening or any special occasion. Worked with fingering weight yarn on US size 4 needles...



New from NASHUA HANDKNITS is "Creative Focus Brushed Alpaca" (\$9.50, 50 grams, 190 yards, 100% alpaca, CYCA yarn classification 4), a soft, light & lofty yarn that works up at 4 sts per inch on US 8 needles. The muted mid-tone color range is eye-pleasing...

Did you know that TAHKI "Cotton Classic" is celebrating its 25th birthday? We're marking the occasion by offering a Fair Isle class with Heidi Kozar, featuring a small drawstring bag class project made with "Cotton Classic" (\$5.95, 50 grams, 108 yards, CYCA yarn classification 4, 100% mercerized cotton). As we look forward to 29 years in business next month, this yarn not only is our all-time best-selling cotton, but continues to be the one with the widest color range...

A few new super-chunky single-ply yarns are here, perfect for Tracey Earhart's "Snowboarder Hat" designed for FIBER TRENDS. BROWN SHEEP "Burly Spun" (\$16.95, 226 grams, 132 yards, 100% wool, CYCA yarn classification 6) has three new shades -- BS29 Jack's plum, BS101 Bing cherry and BS113 oregano. Quick-knitting CLASSIC ELITE "Aspen" (\$14.95, 100 grams, 51 yards, 50% alpaca / 50% wool, CYCA yarn classification 6) has a luxurious hand, dramatic colorways, in a great combination of fibers...

New monochromatic shades of BROWN SHEEP "Lamb's Pride" (\$7.95) in both worsted and bulky weights include M205 grassy knoll, M225 elderberry wine, and M215 tormented teal colorways. These are a great choice for traditional knit and crochet garments, felting or rug punch...

KEEP IT SIMPLE patterns (\$4.95 each) are fun & easy designs to knit:

- KS182 "Windowpane Lace Shawl": quick and fun to knit with CRYSTAL PALACE "Panda Silk" fingering weight yarn and US size 6 circular needles, every other row is simply purled. Included are instructions for easy-to-follow "Flip cards" and blocking directions. A great first lace project for anyone!
- KS138 "Two Sticks" Cabled Knitting Bag (shown lower right): sport about town with this classic cabled knitting bag! Mix and match decorative needles for handles that slide easily into sleeves. Since the needles are removable, you'll never be without "two sticks" wherever you go!
- KS122 "Two Sticks" Aran Purse: simple Aran purse with knitting needle handles, worked with super chunky weight yarn
- KA171 "Cascading Cables Afghan" : quick and easy to knit on size 13 needles, with cable crossings every 18th row. Written in five different sizes to fit your needs, so you will be lounging in luxury in no time!





*** ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Do lace charts and yarnovers have you stumped? Can't find the perfectly neat buttonhole technique to hold your fancy buttons? What does that abbreviation mean? Whatever your knitting challenge may be, we've got a wonderful selection of reference books and resources to help you polish your skills. Here's a sampling...

With clear illustrations and instructions, *Knit Fix* (\$19.95, spiral bound hard cover, shown upper left) teaches you to correct twisted stitches, figure out where those extra stitches came from, hide or repair color mistakes, snug up holes, alter a finished piece for a perfect fit -- and so much more. It's all here, from the basics of identifying a stitch to techniques for solving the toughest knitting problems...

You've invested a lot of effort and patience into your projects. Doesn't it make sense that the finishing is just as important as the knitting? Fine detail work like finishing doesn't need to be a dreaded chore. Janet Szabo thinks the reason that most knitters don't like finishing is because they don't know how to do it properly. We agree. That's why we recommend her self-published spiral bound book, *The 'I Hate to Finish Sweaters' Guide to Finishing Sweaters* 2nd edition (\$13.95). A good finishing job -- and more importantly, an easier finishing job -- begins even before the first stitch is cast on the needles. From beginning to end, the tips in this booklet will help you master all aspects of creating a garment that honors the time and energy you put into your knitting...

The Knitting Answer Book by Margaret Radcliffe (\$14.95) has solutions for probably every problem you'll ever face, and answers to every question you'll ever ask. From needle sizes and yarn weights to dropped stitches, tight ribbing, chart reading, and curling edges, this handy book is one reference you'll want to keep tucked in your knitting bag...

More than 200,000 copies of Vicki Square's *The Knitter's Companion* (\$19.95, spiral bound), recently expanded and updated. This little gem features full-color technique illustrations for the basics, cast-ons, bind-offs, increases, decreases, seaming, joining yarns, blocking, hemming, borders & edges, plus favorite details such as tassels, fringe, and bead knitting. We find the built-in knitting & needle gauge at the back of the book to be the best bonus of all...

Ssk or K2tog? K1 tbl or K1b? Wyib or wyif? Why hunt? The answers are all in *The Knitter's Handbook* from XRX (\$19.95, spiral bound). This compilation includes essential skills, information about circular knitting, buttonholes / zippers, cables, color knitting, edgings all with how-to illustrations and helpful hints from *Knitter's Magazine*...

VOGUE KNITTING *Quick Reference* (\$19.95, spiral bound) is a compact resource, perfect for the busy lifestyle of today's knitter. All the information you need to take a project from beginning to end is offered in an easy-to-use, portable format. Complete with detailed instructions, illustrations and photographs to lead you step by step through the most-used knitting, finishing and embellishment techniques, this guide is the perfect companion for knitters of every skill level...

*** THE BIG BUTTON EVENT MAY 16th & May 17th ***

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we host a "Big Button Event". The very talented Eileen Petre of "SOUP TO KNITS and Bull's Eye Buttons" will be our guest at Kathy's Kreations on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 9 am - 5 pm and at the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild Workshop at the Ramada Inn in historic Ligonier on Sunday, May 17, 2009, 9 am - 4 pm. Lisa Carnahan of LISA KNITS will also be here on Saturday, with a trunk show of her designs that can be embellished with Eileen's buttons. Discover the possibilities and turn your creations into one-of-a-kind works of art (samples shown upper left and lower right).



Eileen's colorful hand-crafted polymer clay buttons come in a variety of shapes and sizes -- milleflori, stripes, geometrics, faux-marble, faux-stone, embossed -- you'll need to stop by to check out her fabulous collection for yourself! In addition, Eileen has delightful, bright handpainted birch needles with unique handcrafted polymer clay ends, available in sizes 6 - 13, and clay bead jewelry. We invite you to bring along your handpainted yarns and unfinished knit, crochet, & punch needle objects in need of embellishment for Eileen's advice and assistance -- here's your chance to meet a true artist-in-action!

*** LAUREL HIGHLANDS KNITTING GUILD WORKSHOP ***

The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild is delighted to sponsor a workshop with nationally-known knitting instructor, Shanta Moitra, on Sunday, May 17, 2009, 9 am - 4 pm. Shanta has taught throughout the country for The Knitting Guild Association and also for regional knitting guilds. The workshop topic is entitled "Beyond The Basics". The three-hour morning session will focus on intermediate cast-on methods such as purl cable cast on, invisible cast-on, decorative edgings, and other important considerations in beginning a sweater. The three-hour afternoon session will cover buttonholes / spacing, buttonbands, invisible bind-off, tips for picking up stitches, grafting & joins, grafting I-cord and special touches to finesse the end of the project. There will also be a mini-market with buttons, jewelry, and items from SOUP TO KNITS and Bull's Eye Buttons with artist Eileen Petre, and yarns & knitting supplies from Kathy's Kreations. The fee for this event is \$35.00, which includes lunch. For further details, please contact Kathy Zimmerman at Kathy's Kreations 724-238-9320...

*** LOVE THOSE SQUARE NEEDLES! ***

Pat G loves our square double-pointed needles for sock knitting. She asks, "Will the square shape of the needles get the same gauge as my round needles?" We posed this question to Mark Moraca of KOLLAGE YARNS, who sent us the following e-mail: "The best is for people to knit a swatch. As we state on the website, 'Due to the difference in the square to round shape, we STRONGLY recommend you knit a swatch for gauge. Please note, most knitters go up one needle size in the circulars and dpns to obtain gauge'. There are so many factors when you switch to square. Loose knitters become tighter, tight knitters become looser. Good knitters go up a size or sometimes even two.



Want to do a neat experiment? Grab a pair and knit 3 or 4 rows, then have someone else knit 3 or 4 rows and pass it around to 8 or 10 people. It's tough to tell where one person stops and the next started. Point is, you know most of those people knit a bit differently on regular round needles". Thanks, Mark! Please ask to try our these new needles on our shop sample, and give us your feedback.

*** INQUIRING KNITTERS WANT TO KNOW ***

Joan M and Joyce B both asked, "My pattern instructs me to 'work even for 2 rows'. What does that mean?" To "work even" means to continue working in the pattern as established, without doing any increases, decreases or shaping.

Madelon S asks, "I have an unlabelled yarn in my stash. How can I tell if it is 100% wool?" Eleanor Swogger, Merchandise Manager of Kraemer Yarns, suggests immersing a small snippet of the yarn in full-strength Clorox bleach. Let it soak overnight. If the fiber is 100% wool, it will disintegrate within 24 hours. Thanks for the information, Eleanor!

*** BETTY LOU'S STASH BUSTER BABY HAT (photo unavailable) ***

SIZES: 6 - 12 months (1 - 2 years; 2 - 4 years in parentheses)

HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE: 14" (16" - 18")

MATERIALS: Worsted weight yarn, approx. 50 yards main color (MC), 15 yards each three contrasting colors (A, B, C): US size 7 circular needle 16" & dpns OR SIZE

NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE; stitch marker; tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 20 sts = 4" in stockinette stitch

PATTERN STITCH (worked circularly)

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: K2, P2; repeat from * around.

Repeat rounds 1 & 2 for pattern.

DIRECTIONS: With MC & circ needle, cast on 72 (80 - 88) sts. Join, being careful not to twist sts, place marker. Knit every round for 1.25". With MC, work in pattern stitch for 1", end with round 2. With A, K 1 round, P1 round. With B, K 2 rounds. With A, K1 round, P 1 round. With C, work in pattern stitch for 2" (2.5" - 3"). With A, K1 round, P 1 round. With B, K 2 rounds. With A, K1 round, P 1 rounds. With MC, K 2 rounds.

SHAPE CROWN (use MC for crown):

Round 1: *K6, K2tog; repeat from * around: 63 (70 - 77) sts.

Round 2: *K5, K2 tog; repeat from * around: 54 (60 - 66) sts.

Round 3: K.

Change to double-pointed needles.

Round 4: *K4, K2tog; repeat from * around: 45 (50 - 55) sts.

Round 5: K.

Round 6: *K3, K2tog; repeat from * around: 36 (40 - 44) sts.

Rounds 7 & 8: K.

Round 9: *K2, K2tog; repeat from * around: 27 (30 - 33) sts.

Round 10: K.

Round 11: *K1, K2tog; repeat from * around: 18 (20 - 22) sts.

Round 12: K2 tog around: 9 (10 - 11) sts.

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread tail through remaining sts with tapestry needle. Secure and weave in tail. We thank to Betty Lou for sharing her pattern.



Abbreviations: K - knit; K2tog - knit 2 sts together; P - purl; sts - stitches
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*** PUNCH NEEDLE EMBROIDERY NEWS ***

"Spring things" are happening with punchneedle. Helen Stetina's classes will be announced soon. In addition to new supplies of WEEKS DYE WORKS floss and GENTLE ARTS SAMPLER THREADS, the following kits are now available for your punch needle stitching pleasure:



STONE & THREAD "Bunny Trail" (\$12.50) -- a folksy rabbit with egg-shaped backpack

STONE & THREAD "A Special Gift" (\$12.50) -- a folksy chick pulling a cart with tulips

MYRTLE GRACE MOTIFS "I Wooly Love Ewe" (\$12.50) -- whimsical sheep with thoughts of love

COUNTRY FACES "Tulip Bunny" (\$10.50, shown upper right) -- floppy-eared rabbit with tulip

COUNTRY FACES "Spring Bunny" (\$10.50) -- leaping rabbit silhouette jumping over tulips; star-shaped fluted tin also available (\$6.95); ask to see Helen's sample model

*** OXFORD RUG PUNCH CLASSES WITH TRACEY EARHART ***

INTRODUCTION TO RUG PUNCH Saturday, March 28, 2009; 3.5 hour class 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm; registration fee \$50.00

Class fee includes a 20" X 20" rug punch frame, monk's cloth for project, use of templates and instruction (yarn and Oxford rug punch needle are separate purchases). Create a chair pad or mat, using a selection of templates to create your own design. During class, students will select and purchase yarns of their choice to make a one-of-a-kind unique design.

Students will not complete the project during the allotted class time, but will have enough knowledge to comfortably and easily move forward on their own at home. Tracey is always willing to provide additional assistance and answer questions by telephone or -email. Additional class supplies needed -- notebook, pen/pencil and small sharp scissors. Students may e-mail instructor with any questions at halfmoonhollow@gmail.com

Special note: Students from these classes may stay and join The Punchettes for the evening hook-in.

DESIGN YOUR OWN RUG PUNCH CLASS Saturday, March 28, 2009; 2 hour session 9:30 am - 11:30 am; registration fee \$25.00

Open to students who have taken the "Intro to Rug Punch" class. Registrations fee includes a 24" X 24" finished piece of monk's cloth and additional class supplies. The session covers the techniques and processes necessary for taking an "idea" and transferring it onto monk's cloth and into a chair pad, rug, stair runner or mat. Color and yarn selection will be covered. Additional monk's cloth (\$7.50 for a finished 24" X 24" piece), and frames (\$17.50 for a 20" X20") may be ordered from the instructor. Please order at least 7 days prior to the class date. Previous spring and summer 2008 students with frames smaller than 20" X 20" outside measurement should contact Tracey. Students are asked to bring their frame and Oxford rug punch needles, small sharp scissors, pencil and note-taking supplies. Students may e-mail the instructor with any questions at halfmoonhollow@gmail.com

PUNCHETTES HOOK-IN Saturday, March 28, 2009; 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Casual evening get-togethers to work on projects, share, learn, encourage and enjoy each other's company. Open to all previous students. There is no charge, but **YOU MUST CALL AHEAD** to sign up (724) 238-9320. If no one is signed up, Tracey will not be staying.



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

Join the Reader's Knit Club for an evening of knitting & fellowship on **Mondays, March 2, 2009, and April 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 evening, March 10, 2009, from 7 - 9 pm (rsvp please, in case of inclement weather) *****

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, March 13, 2009; and April 3, 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. 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 KNITTING CLASSES *****

"Stash Buster" Scarf Party with Kathy Zimmerman Saturday, March 21, 2009, 1pm - 4pm registration fee \$25.00*

Bring oddlots of 5-7 balls of yarn (and some to share, if you wish) & a US size 10.5 circular needle 29" length to learn how to knit the famous sideways scarf.

"Fair Isle For the Faint of Heart" with Heidi Kozar Saturday, April 4, 2009, 9:30am - 12:30pm registration fee \$25.00*

Master the art of two-handed, two-color stranded knitting from stitchmaster Heidi Kozar as you make a small drawstring bag (detail upper left). Learn these skills in the process: circular cast-on, increasing, picking up stitches, knitting in the round, reading charts, corrugated rib and I-cord. Student must supply two or more colors of worsted weight cotton (Tahki Cotton Classic was used for our bag); US size 6 circular knitting needle 16" length and double-pointed needles, and stitch markers -- supplies may be purchased prior to class.

"My First Sweater Project" with Heidi Kozar; Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm registration fee \$25.00* ask for details

"Managing Mistakes" with Heidi Kozar Saturday, April 18, 2009, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm registration fee \$25.00 ask for details

*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. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 28 years!

Knitting, crocheting and stitching are leisure activities, with time well-spent and savored. Your projects and handmades are crafted with love and care -- wishing you carefree moments making them and happiness with every stitch. Think spring...

KEEP KNITTING! Kathy