



KATHY'S KREATIONS
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MARCH 2011 UPDATE



Dear Knitters & Crocheters,

Come celebrate a season where comfortable style and renewed classics define the fashion world! Kathy's Kreations for Spring 2011 is relaxed, yet refined. Choose the knit and crochet looks you love, and we'll help you make them happen with our know-how and expertise. Our attention to craftsmanship, detail and design can make the difference between "home-made" and "handmade".

We've pulled together a collection of the must-haves of the moment, like the charming CHURCHMOUSE DESIGNS introduced last month. These patterns were the hit of the show at our Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival booths. The timeless appeal of these gorgeous, fashion-forward accessories will last for seasons to come, while adding personality to your wardrobe.

Learn something new this month! Tracey Earhart's Spring Sock Series begins with basic socks and socks worked on two circular needles. Her workshops will continue in April and May with classes on toe-up socks, the "Magic Loop" method, and working two socks at the same time. Carol Smith will host "Felted Clogs Knit-Along" on Thursday afternoons, and our first-ever Ravelry online Knit-Along, co-ordinated by Julie Matthews of Knitting At Large blog fame, already has 59 members and growing!

We strive to bring you products that are an unmatched combination of enduring value and exceptional quality. Stop by soon!

MARCH IS "KNIT A CLASSIC" MONTH
All regularly-priced CLASSIC ELITE yarns in stock
are 10% off throughout March 2011

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 ***

Despite the weather, Kathy's Kreaions already is in full bloom! Spring has sprung, at least in the yarn world, and we could not be more ready for it. The season brings with it a breath of fresh air in its vibrant shades and textures. Color makes a beautiful (and welcome) comeback which is translated into the latest yarns and updates of a few classics...

Put some spring in your stitches with *INTERWEAVE KNITS Magazine Spring 2011* (\$6.99). There are 22 fresh knits for breezy days, some with clever modular construction and easy, fast fabrics. We knitters have found the secret to waiting out winter with good grace. As Eunny Jang states in her editorial: "We take up projects that hint at spring with bright colors and light fabrics, willing warmer days with every stitch. We shed our wooly skins and try on cottons, linens, and silks; we experiment; we replace heavy, serious expeditions into knitting with playful jaunts. All through the dreary midwinter, we knit on, leaving a trail of brightly colored freshness. How could spring fail to come? We knitters earn it honestly."

With that in mind, this issue is stocked with all the right projects to get you dreaming about spring: flowing, sculptural knits that take advantage of linen's drape (the swirl cropped jacket, shown upper left); punchy modern color-block knitting; gently sophisticated lace projects; fun modular knits; a fantastic Fair Isle tutorial; and fresh, sweet ruffles and ruching. Spring's in season...

Knits bloom! Fresh and fanciful, warm-weather knitting is, at its essence, a luxury, pure and simple. *VOGUE KNITTING Spring / Summer 2011* (\$6.99) features lots of white for countless possibilities to brighten every look. Contemporary styles get a spring pick-me-up with cool, crisp white, alone or paired with pastels. *VOGUE* also features layering looks and looser shapes. The most important thing is to love what you're knitting and wearing. High fashion hits the beach with exquisite openwork cover-ups. Our favorite fashion stories are the tropical tops featuring citrus brights and coral spice, balanced by calming summertime blues...

Color has been a major factor in the long history of textiles. *Piecework Magazine* (\$6.99) March/April 2011 is devoted to color in textiles -- reds, purples, and blues. In addition to the articles and projects (wrist warmers and socks), you'll find some "eye candy" -- glorious photographs of some of the colorful materials we use in our creative endeavors...

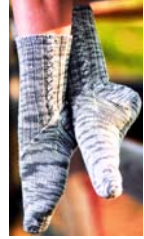
CHURCHMOUSE DESIGNS patterns are a huge hit! We've just received fresh supplies of "Barb's Ruffled Scarf", "Wetted Fingerless Mitts" and "Linen Stitch Scarf" (\$5.50 each). And for your knitting pleasure, new shades of CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS 100% merino wool fingering (\$14.50, 50 grams, 175 yards, CYCA #2) with which to knit them: Chocolate Cherry, Blue Ridge, Walk in the Woods & Caribbean Blue. Mmm, yummy...

Blossom Bags (shown right, \$22.50 each) are a great new product offering from CLASSIC ELITE. These USA-made bags are designed using contrasting modern cotton prints. They feature a round bottom and drawstring to keep everything in its place. It's great to have your small "take-along" project essentials looking cute and presentable, ready for "on the go" knitting/crocheting. Blossom Bags also work perfectly as reusable gift bags...



*** MORE GREAT NEW STUFF ***

The latest installment in the "Feed Your Creativity" series from KOLLAGE YARNS is pattern #3643 "Sonoma Socks" (\$5.50, shown right). These lovely ladies' socks feature an angled ribbed pattern over the top of the foot with rope cables flowing up from ankle to cuff. The pattern is written as if you are working with two circular needles, but may be converted to Magic Loop or double-pointed needles (Don't know how? Check out Tracey Earhart's Sock Class Series starting this month). The socks are worked with one hank of KOLLAGE "Sock-A-Licious" (\$18.95, 100 grams, 354 yards, 70% fine superwash merino wool / 10% mulberry silk / 20% nylon, CYCA #2) which comes in beautiful pastel semi-solid colorways. Ask to see our shop model socks skillfully handknit by Barbara McIntire. Did you know that we also carry stainless steel sock blockers (\$16.95)?



If you were unable to attend the happening that was the Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival last month, no worries! You may still purchase Kathy's original cowl designs. The kits feature a seed stitch cowl using KRAEMER YARNS "Perfection Chunky" (\$10.00 kit, 70% acrylic / 30% merino wool, CYCA #5), MUENCH YARNS "Campano" (\$20.00 kit, 50% new wool / 50% acrylic, CYCA #5) or ROWAN "Renew" (\$24.00 kit, 93% recycled wool / 7% polyamide, CYCA #5), plus directions for an easy staggered rib cowl and a stockinette version, with sufficient yarn to complete one cowl, using US #10 16" - 20" circular knitting needles. The pattern & yarns are also sold separately...

CLASSIC ELITE YARNS "Liberty Wool Print" (\$7.95, 50 grams, 122 yards, 100% washable wool, CYCA#3) has been a huge success. The printed colors are so popular that we've had trouble keeping them in stock. We have partnered with CLASSIC ELITE in its Liberty Wool Print Subscription service. Ten new colors will be introduced two at a time every month through June. We've already received Rain Forest, North Sea White Caps, and Ultra Violet Autumn, which joined the original four shades on our shelves...

Now introducing CRYSTAL PALACE YARNS "Sausalito" (\$9.95, 50 grams, 198 yards, 80% machine washable merino wool / 20% nylon, CYCA #2), a two-ply yarn with many uses: lace, socks, accessories. In 14 slow-striping tweedy colors, it works up at 6 - 8 stitches per inch and can be hand or machine washed. CRYSTAL PALACE suggests putting knit items in a lingerie bag if machine washing, to reduce rubbing of fibers...

The SKACEL COLLECTION "What's Your Point?" scarf continues to be very popular. We've just received two color packs of "Crazy Zaubeball" (\$20.50, 100 grams, 460 yards, 75% superwash wool/ 25% polyamide, CYCA #2), so all shades are once again in stock. These will sell out quickly, so stop in soon before your favorite is gone..



From the pages of *Sock Yarn One-Skein Wonders* (\$18.95, softcover) comes the "Lettuce Slide Scarf" (at left). Our lovely shop sample was handknit by Betty Lou Glasso from REGIA "Hand-dye Effect" (\$15.50, 100 grams, 460 yards, 70% superwash wool / 25% polyamide / 5% acrylic, CYCA #2). This scarf slides on a thread that runs down its center, allowing you to scrunch it up strategically for extra flair. Ours has two crocheted flowers, but you may, of course, want more! The scarf is worked back and forth on circular needles to accommodate the large number of stitches...



*** NOW ON OUR BOOKSHELVES ***

Knitting Plus (\$24.95, softcover) offers everything you need to know about plus-size sweater construction. Author Lisa Shroyer brings you this collection from top knitwear designers, including our own Kathy, featuring the best in flattering fit and shape.

Inside, you'll find 15 stylish pullover and cardigan patterns, including raglans, set-in sleeves, drop shoulders, seamless yokes, and dolmans. There are expert tips on tailoring and measuring your garments to create a perfect custom fit. Each pattern offers a broad range of sizes, specially designed to fit bust measurements from 44" - 56". Packed with

design and technique information, *Knitting Plus* is your go-to resource for knitting your own customized garments.

About Kathy's design, "Waltham Cabled Cardigan" (shown upper left): "Kathy Zimmerman combined modified-drop shaping with a V-neck and shawl collar for a casually classic look in this rugged cardigan. Panels of rope cables are flanked by ribs for a richly patterned non-bulky look that drapes nicely in a worsted-weight blend of alpaca and wool. This cardigan is finished with a one-piece short-row collar and front band that allows you to make as many buttonholes as you like. Kathy worked three buttons at the bust that allow the fronts to flow open at the lower edge. The combination of deep V-neck and wide shawl collar is attractive on most plus-size women." This cardigan design was worked with LOUET "Eastport Alpaca" (70% alpaca / 30% merino; 75 grams, 150 yards, CYCA #4 medium).

If you are a member of Ravelry, you are cordially invited to visit and join our Knit-Along group, "Waltham KAL", moderated by Julie Matthews (knittingatlarge on Ravelry) or julie@knittingatlarge.com

Wrap yourself in unique knitted scarves, shawls, and skirts! Innovative designer Kristin Omdahl showcases her signature motif designs and experimental construction in *A Knitting Wrapsody* (\$24.95, softcover). With her 18 original patterns, you'll begin to think differently about knitted pieces that wrap, drape, or tie, whether around the neck, shoulders, or waist. You'll find inspirational, creative patterns that advance your skills, & explore shape and silhouette -- and you'll love wearing the finished pieces year-round.

Each elegant garment incorporates exciting elements such as reversible stitch patterns, unique knitted edges, and interesting closures. An enclosed bonus DVD features Kristin demonstrating new and unusual knitting techniques step by step and will help you strengthen your own knitting skills. Expand your wardrobe with bold, stylish shapes and add form-flattering pieces perfect for layering...

Experience luxurious and romantic knits in the freshest fashion. *Vintage Modern Knits* (\$24.95, softcover) is a celebration of the charm and beauty of "handmade". Inspired by traditional knits, designers Courtney Kelley and Kate Gagnon Osborn bring you classic pieces with their own contemporary twist.

Divided into three sections (Vintage Feminine, Rustic Weekend, and Winter Harbor), this book highlights patterns that evoke a feeling of a long country weekend, a chic outing in town, or a cozy day in front of the fire. You'll fall in love with knitwear combining modern colors and embellishments with traditional techniques, including cables, Fair Isle, lace, and colorwork. Packed with perfect weekend wear from stylish and cozy tops to pretty hats and versatile wraps, this is a must-have resource for knitting a beautifully hand-crafted custom wardrobe...

*** TWIST STITCH HAT ***

This vintage pattern originally appeared in the Greater St. Louis Knitting Guild newsletter in July 1996. We receive many requests for knitting for others, as a result of our holiday "We Care" tree. We hope this free pattern will encourage you to contribute a hat for this worthwhile effort.



SIZES: Child's (ladies' - men's in parentheses)

MATERIALS: Lightweight bulky yarn such as CLASSIC ELITE "Montera" 1 (2 - 2) hanks;
US 8 and US 10 knitting needles; "Chibi" tapestry needle for finishing

GAUGE: 14 sts / 20 rows = 4"

NOTE: Piece is worked flat back and forth, then seamed

DIRECTIONS: With larger needles, cast on 71 (77 - 83) sts. Change to smaller needles.

Work in K1, P1 ribbing for 6 (8 - 8 rows), increasing 1 st on last row: 72 (78 - 84) sts.

Change to larger needles.

Set-Up Row (wrong side): *P1, K1, P2, K1, P1; repeat from * across row.

Pattern (multiple of 6 sts):

Row 1 (right side): *K1, P1, skip next st, K in FRONT of next st, K skipped st, P1, K1; repeat from * across row.

Row 2: *P1, K1, P2, K1, P1; repeat from * across row.

Row 3: *K1, P1, skip next st, K in BACK of next st, K skipped st, P1, K1; repeat from * across row.

Row 4: repeat row 2.

Repeat these 4 rows for pattern.

Work in pattern stitch until piece measures 5" (6" - 7") from cast on, ending with row 4.

TOP SHAPING

Row 1: K1, P1, *skip next st, K in FRONT of next st, K skipped st, P1, K2tog, P1; repeat from * across row to last 4 sts, skip next st, K in FRONT of next st, K skipped st, P1, K1: 61 (66 - 71) sts.

Work 3 rows even in pattern stitch as established.

Row 5: K1; *P1, K2tog, P1, K1; repeat from * across row: 49 (53 - 57) sts.

Work even in pattern stitch for 1 (3 - 3) rows.

Row 7 (9 - 9): K1; *P1, K1, K2tog, repeat from * across row: 37 (40 - 43) sts.

Row 8 (10 - 10): *P2, K1, repeat from * across row to last st, P1.

Row 9 (11 - 11): K1; *K2tog, K1; repeat from * across row: 25 (27 - 29) sts.

Row 10 (12 - 12): P1, (P2tog) 12 (13 - 14) times: 13 (14 - 15) sts.

Break off yarn, leaving a 12" end. Draw end through remaining sts and pull up tightly. Sew back seam. Weave in ends.

*** PROVISIONAL (TEMPORARY) CAST ON ***

A provisional, or temporary cast on, is used when you would like to go back and pick up stitches to work in the opposite direction. This is handy when you aren't certain what type of border you would like, if you will have enough yarn to complete the garment and may need to do a contrasting color border, etc. One of the easiest ways of doing a temporary cast on is with a crocheted chain. Using a contrast yarn (preferably a smooth cotton), work a chain with two more stitches than the number you wish to cast on. Pull the last loop up to tie off the chain. Now, pick up and knit stitches through the loops on the back of the chain, then work to the desired length. When you are ready to pick up the cast on stitches, the chain will rip out easily. Just undo the last stitch and pull one stitch at a time, placing it onto your knitting needle...

*** HELPFUL HINTS ***

Are your stitch markers scattered all over the bottom of your knitting bag? Place them on a stitch holder to keep them together and easy to find...

After picking up stitches on a circular needle to work the neck (or arm bands for a vest), work one row of purl to create a garter ridge. It tends to hide any imperfections from picking up stitches...

When knitting with machine washable wool, it is extremely important to knit to the specified gauge listed on the label to ensure not only better washability, but also to reduce pilling. When knit too loosely, the garment may not wash as well or may develop fuzzy or pilling spots...

*** BLOCKING TIP ***

Kathy recommends blocking all swatches and knitted pieces before assembly, to set the stitches and improve the hand of the fabric. Kathy uses blocking wires and "pins out" pieces before misting, laying the piece flat to air dry.

One of Kathy's Stitches West students, Willa Cather, shared this blocking tip: When misting with room temperature water, add a tiny drop of Eucalan to the spray bottle before dampening the piece. This will help to reduce surface tension / water beading and cleans the fabric (Eucalan is non-rinse). Thanks, Willa!

*** COTTON CLASSIC COLORPLAY CHALLENGE SPECIAL OFFER ***

Get ready to cast on! Go to www.knittingdaily.com 2/15/11 to see how you can enter Tahki Yarns' COLORPLAY COTTON CLASSIC CHALLENGE. Print a valuable coupon for a 10% discount here at Kathy's Kreation's when purchasing four or more skeins of regularly-priced Cotton Classic or Cotton Classic Lite in stock during February 15 - March 25, 2011. Get in on the excitement...

*** KNITTING HUMOR ***

Q: How does a ewe help her lambs fall asleep?

A. She sings them a lulla-baa.

*** MARCH IS NATIONAL CROCHET MONTH ***

Did you know that March is National Crochet Month? Mention that you read that in our newsletter and receive 10% off any regularly-priced crochet hook of your choice in stock (one discount per customer, please)...

*** WHY KNIT? WHY CROCHET? ***

We live in a fast-paced world. The phenomenal growth of the Internet and advanced technology has made it possible for us to do in seconds what would have previously taken hours of painstaking effort. However, isn't it refreshing on some level to know that our crafts, once a necessary means to keep warm, have become a source of creativity, inspiration, motivation, fellowship, and relaxation? It helps us to be better in everything that we do. As Courtney and Kate say in their *Vintage Modern Knits* book, "It also pays homage to a time when life moved a little slower, and things were made to last." We hope that you are inspired to try something new, stretch your imagination, challenge your skills, and create something beautiful with your own two hands...





*** KNIT ALONG WITH CAROL SMITH ***

Interested in learning to make felted clogs? Carol Smith invites you to our first-ever, in-shop "Knit-Along". Carol will be working on FIBER TRENDS pattern adult knitted clogs AC-33 (shown left). Come join her for a drop-in session from 1 pm - 3 pm on Thursdays March 3, 10, 17, or 24, 2011. Learn how to interpret instructions, turn the toe or heel, work the bumper or any of the techniques used in working this project. The cost is \$5.00 per session (you may come for any or all, and can be ready to work any point in the pattern). Project yarn must have been purchased here at Kathy's Creations. Project materials include feltable wool, Fiber Trends pattern AC-33, US 13 circular knitting needles in 16" and 24" lengths. Call for more details 724-238-9320 or stop by on Thursdays...

*** WHERE'S KATHY???

2011 is shaping up to be a big year for fiber-related events! Kathy's event-full calendar is filled with great places to go. Besides the Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Show and Stitches West last month, Kathy finds herself happily involved at other venues as well. And when she's not travelling, you can find her at Kathy's Creations!

- Kathy has recently returned from a very successful Stitches West 2011 in Santa Clara, CA, with the largest attendance and Market in Stitches Events history. Her classes were filled, and the students were wonderful. Kathy spent an afternoon at the Kollage sponsor booth, demonstrating cable techniques and autographing patterns featuring her designs.
- Deep Creek Knitting Retreat; teaching "Shaking It Up at Deep Creek" (brioche stitch and Shaker rib pattern stitch cowl) and Market Vendor; March 18 -20, 2011; (for info call 412-963-7030 or e-mail www.pghknitandcrochet.com)
- Stitches South; April 14 -17, 2011, Atlanta, Georgia; teaching classes including Knit To Fit, Create-A-Cable, Slip Stitch Sampler, Intro to Combining Lace & Cable
- Slip-Stitch Colorwork Hat; 6-hour workshop for the Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild; Sunday, May 15, 2011, Ramada Inn of Ligonier; 9 am - 4 pm; \$40 fee for non-members (includes lunch); for details, call Kathy at 724-238-9320.
CLASS DESCRIPTION: Slip-stitch colorwork technique is an easy way for beginners and experienced knitters alike to add color and texture to their projects. Slip-stitch patterns use only one color per row, so complicated-looking patterns can be mastered quickly. Kathy will discuss the basic how-to's for working this technique, hints for choosing colors and yarns, as well as tips for interpreting instructions. The "hands on" class project is Kathy's tweed-stitch hat which experiments with color combinations as the student learns the technique.
- Interweave Knits Summer 2011; read Kathy's Designer Profile and an article about Kathy's Creations written by Julie Matthews

*** IN LIVING COLOR ***

What's the color of the season? According to the the Wall Street Journal (2/13/11): "Designers this spring have a particularly high tolerance for orange's sweet-and-sour charms... make sure orange is your main squeeze come spring". All shades of orange, especially tangerine and mango, are popping up everywhere. Kathy can attest to this -- the Stitches West fashion show in Santa Clara featured an "orange crush" prominently on the catwalk...

***** 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: **Mondays, March 7, 2011, and April 4, 2011; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.** Come knit!



***** "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, March 8, 2011, and April 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, March 18, 2011, and April 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...

***** "BASIC SOCKS" Saturday March 12, 2011, or March 26, 2011; 9:30 am - 12 noon with instructor Tracey Earhart; \$25.00 registration fee (includes pattern)* *****

Are you intimidated by double-pointed needles, turning a heel, or stitching up a sock toe? Tracey will share her expertise with you to help you master new skills and confidently tackle that challenge. Student supplies include US #5 or #6 double-pointed knitting needles 5" length, 110 yards worsted or DK weight yarn, stitch markers and Chibi tapestry needle (all available for purchase on class day).

***** "SOCKS ON TWO CIRCULAR NEEDLES" Saturday March 12, 2011, or March 26, 2011, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm with instructor Tracey Earhart; \$25.00 registration fee (includes pattern)* *****

Are you intrigued by knitting socks? Tracey will share her expertise with you to help you make socks using two circular needles. Student supplies include US #1 or #2 circular knitting needles 16" or 20" length, 110 yards fingering or sock weight yarn, stitch markers and Chibi tapestry needle (available for purchase on class day).

*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 2 students may be subject to cancellation or postponement, at the discretion of the instructor. Exceptions will be made for bad 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, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. Group classes in a variety of intermediate knitting skills are being planned, 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 30 years !

Life experience is a treasure that should be shared, especially with the generations that follow us. Share your skills -- teach someone to knit or crochet...

KEEP STITCHING!

Kathy